



# THE 'BURNIAN

BLACKBURN COLLEGE

Vol. 10, No. 6 May 2014

## Letter from the Provost

By Jeff Aper



PHOTO BY AURORA GRIMMETT

Provost Jeff Aper at the 2013 Graduation Ceremony

I recently sent out electronic notices to faculty, staff and students announcing that I will be leaving Blackburn during the coming summer. I wanted to write this piece for The 'Burnian as

a last note to students before I move on. I'm leaving because a wonderful opportunity arose that offered a great deal for me professionally, but also for my family. But even though this move is very positive for

me for many reasons, there is some sadness in leaving Blackburn. As 19<sup>th</sup> century novelist Amelia Barr once wrote, "All changes are more or less tinged with melancholy, for what we are leaving behind

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## Alpha Psi Omega Members Take the Stage

By Jess Clements

On May 4, Alpha Psi Omega will hold its induction ceremony in the ADRs in the Demuzio Campus Center. The inductions will take place at 7 p.m. Alpha Psi Omega is Blackburn's theater honor society. To be inducted students must have been involved in at least two theater productions, which includes Blackburn's Got Talent. Involvement could range anywhere from actually performing on the stage to working behind the scenes as part of the stage crew. Along with inducting Blackburn students, Alpha Psi Omega also inducts community members as honorary members. During this year's ceremony, new officers will be elected for the 2014-2015 school year. These officers will take their positions as soon as this current school year comes to an end. The current officers are Reggie Guyton (president), DeArryka Williams (vice president), Brendan Lersch (secretary) and Johnathan

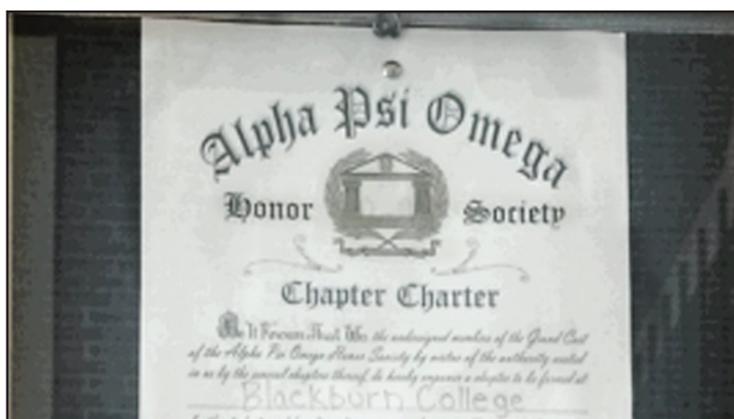


PHOTO BY JESS CLEMENTS

The Official Alpha Psi Charter.

Edwards (treasurer).

"People sometimes forget what it means to be a fully dedicated theatrical person (whether on or behind stage). We as actors are driven to create art that people can relate to as well as learn from. That takes hard work, perseverance, transparency and faith in your fellow theater people. The greatest part is the ability to have all these qualities while being a good student in and out of academia," said Guyton. Members' involvement in the theater goes beyond just performing on the stage or as stage crew; they are also

in charge of concessions during the play and musical performances. This year members also directed and presented a shadow production of the Rocky Horror Picture Show. Congratulations to Marla Courtney, September Stanton, Justina Smiley, Paul Kline, Lindsey Smith, Jeanette Kelly, Valeri Kolze, Brandon Ellis, Jesse Medina, Becca Wales, Becca Finke, Patrick Benedict, Michelle Lee and John Guillotte who will be recognized for their outstanding involvement in theater.

## Saying Goodbye with a Trip Back Through Time

By Lindsey Becker

As the 2013-14 school year comes to a close, Blackburn must not only say goodbye to graduating seniors, but also to many beloved professors. Greg Meyer (professor of philosophy and religion), Sam Meredith (department chair of political science), Victor "Jake" Miller (department chair of psychology) and Roy Graham (professor of English and communications) will all be retiring at the end of this year.

Roy Graham came to Blackburn in 1964, clocking in an impressive 50 years of service. Mr. Graham even taught Provost Jeff Aper as a student. In 1996, Graham became college marshal. Students may remember Graham's portrayal of Gideon Blackburn at the 2011 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary Founder's Day convocation (at which Sam Meredith and Jake Miller also gave an unforgettable rendition of "This School is Our School").

Joining the Blackburn staff in 1981, Dr. Greg Meyer served as the college chaplain

until 2003. He also served as the chair of the humanities division. Currently, he is a professor of philosophy and religion and lent his services to the college for a total of 33 years.

Dr. Sam Meredith joined the political science department in 1979 — giving him 35 years at Blackburn — and was appointed chair of the social sciences division in 1989. He was also elected faculty dean in 1991.

Dr. Victor Miller, affectionately known by most as Dr. Jake, came to the Blackburn psychology department in 1989 and became the chair in 2003. Dr. Miller was also the chair of the social sciences division and served a total of 25 years at Blackburn.

It's a fond and bittersweet farewell to these professors; although it's a shame to see them go, the years of service they've given to the Blackburn community are invaluable and extend far beyond the four years that most students have had to appreciate them.

## Library Granted \$100,000

By Marissa Watson

Blackburn College Lumpkin Library recently received a \$100,000 grant from the George I. Alden Trust.

Library staff, Academic Resource Center (ARC), Institutional Advancement and the College administration worked collaboratively on this project. In serious need of renovations, the library has not undergone any since its construction in 1966. "The space as it is now does not represent a modern academic library, or how people should view it as," said Head Librarian Spencer Brayton. The grant, though, makes its modernization possible.

Lumpkin Library will also undergo a name change. The new name — Lumpkin Learning Commons — will help better represent the shift in social dynamics the library hopes to achieve. A timeline for renovations will be made and some changes will begin this summer. New library manager Kelsey Moreland

said, "Our goal in this update is to make the library the center of campus. It is going to take longer than just this summer, but we are looking forward to starting the change."

An immediate change will move Writer's Block from the adjacent building into the current Lounge. In addition, library desk workers will become "Peer Resource Counselors" and will have more in-depth knowledge of the services the Commons will provide. Other planned renovations in Lumpkin include technology updates for the fiction room, revived office spaces, an updated kitchen and new furniture such as booth-style seating that will foment student collaboration. Lumpkin Learning Commons' modernization calls for a change in student perspective as to what a library should mean to campus. Brayton commented, "It should be an open space for everyone."

## New Options for Foreign Study

By Marissa Watson

Starting this summer, Blackburn will offer new opportunities to study abroad. In addition to the existing programs (Spain, Ecuador and Wales) students will now be able to study abroad in Costa Rica and Chile.

These new avenues were pursued by Spanish Department Chair Dr. Ruth Kartchner, who provided connections for both programs. Impressed upon hearing about Blackburn's educational model, Kartchner's nephew — who teaches at Universidad Santo Tomás in Chile, spoke to his Study Abroad office about the possibility of an agreement between the two schools.

Though Blackburn has sent students abroad for full semesters, the Chilean program differs in that it is a true exchange. Blackburn sends a student to Chile and receives one of theirs in return, with each student paying tuition at their home institutions. The only difference lies in housing: Blackburn students will stay with host families in Chile while students



PHOTO BY MARISSA WATSON

There are plenty of Spanish-speaking countries to choose from. Now Blackburn is offering more options through its study abroad program.

from Santo Tomás will live in campus dorms. Just as students participate in this exchange, professors may also do so under similar conditions. "Chile's option opens the doors not only to students, but also to professors who may wish to do an exchange and add this experience to their academic

strengths," said Kartchner.

Sophomore Spanish major Jordan GeRue will be the first student to participate. "I think that the new program in Chile will be an exciting alternative to Ecuador or Spain for those students wishing to study in el extranjero (abroad). Chile offers a stunning variety of

landscapes and climates to suit the tastes of any travel-student. Universidad Santo Tomás boasts campuses across the country near mountains, deserts, grasslands, you name it! Where else in the world can you ski the Andes in the morning and sit on a beach by the Pacific in the evening?" he

asked.

Blackburn students can participate in the exchange with Chile only during the fall semester and can stay in Santiago or Viña del Mar. Also new to Blackburn is the summer study abroad option in Heredia, Costa Rica. Students apply through the University of Arizona and participate in their program. In addition to being a less expensive option to Spain, Kartchner said, "I can match what the students need to fit much more exactly with our curriculum here with Costa Rica."

The five week program has students stay with host families and take 80 hours of classroom instruction. The program also includes excursions to popular tourist areas such as Monteverde, the Arenal Volcano, Nosara Beach and Tortuguero, among others. Blackburn Spanish students Sara Burchett and Jack Homan will participate in the program this summer. For further study abroad information, contact Kartchner at ruth.kartchner@blackburn.edu or ext. 5684.

## Smoke Free Campus

By Kayla Koyne

As of January 2015 Blackburn may join other colleges such as Washington University in St. Louis in becoming a "smoke free" campus. Efforts began earlier this semester with a suggestion by President Comerford, although he stressed that more conversations would be needed before moving forward. Student Senate and the Student Life Committee (comprised of faculty, staff and students including Shaun Thrasher, Abby Turney and Marla Courtney) have been debating the controversial topic for several weeks. Discussions included various policies such as if "e-cigs" should be banned too and whether smoking would be allowed in vehicles on campus.

Student Life Committee has decided that in the future, should the ban be approved, chewing tobacco and "e-cigs" would be banned along with cigarettes. Allowing e-cigs would "just create more loopholes for the rule," said Thrasher. "If we are to take this seriously, we need to move to a smoke and tobacco free campus." Additionally, when asked why e-cigs may be banned, Dean of Students Heidi Heinz replied that not enough studies have been done to determine if there are

secondhand health impacts.

According to President Comerford, counseling, patches and other programs to help smokers quit could be made available. "There is some evidence that the more inconvenient that you make smoking, the more frequently people will quit or not pick it up. That's one of the pushes behind ideas like this," he said.

Heinz stated, "Smokers are more and more in the minority. So I think the education efforts that have been going on for

years are working." However, those who do smoke are a vocal minority according to Heinz. If Blackburn was to become a smoke free campus, it would likely be enforced through issuing tickets to violators, although this hasn't been decided yet. While designated smoking areas were initially discussed, Student Life is in favor of immediately moving to smoke free because of the cost of building and maintaining these smoking areas.

Some Blackburn students, including junior biology major Valeri Kolze, are in favor of the proposed transition. "I think Blackburn College becoming a smoke free campus would be a good thing as it promotes a healthy life style," she said. Others are strongly against it. "I think it's stupid [to ban smoking] because it's not going to stop people from smoking. So the reasoning is pointless," said junior political science major DeArryka Williams.



PHOTO BY STEVI MITCHELL

If Blackburn's campus were to become smoke free, what options would smokers have to avoid breaking the rules?

## Blackburn College Crime Beat

By Michelle Lee

Between Mar. 25 and Mar. 31, the Campus Community and Safety department and Residence Life handled a total of three incidents. Director of Campus Safety Timothy Reents and student worker Alex Miller compiled a list of aforementioned incidents below:

**Mar. 25:** Security received a report of a vandalized car on campus. The car's exterior had been keyed. The incident was handled by Campus Security.

**Mar. 28:** Res. Life and Security received a report of an unidentified person attempting to enter students' dorm rooms while they were sleeping. The incident was handled by Res. Life staff and Security.

**Mar. 31:** An additional vandalized car was reported. The car's exterior was keyed. Campus Security handled the incident.

## Letter from the Provost Cont.

By Jeff Aper

is part of ourselves." That's certainly the case for me now. I have seen three classes of Blackburn students come in as brand new first year students and move through their experiences to become seniors and graduate. I have seen in so many students echoes of my own experience as a Blackburn student and am so very glad to have devoted myself to the work of trying, every day, to find ways to continue to improve the learning and experience of every student here. It's a pretty great way to be able to make a living.

So I'm moving on to a new institution and will begin a new chapter in my life as an educator, which amazingly enough stretches back to 1979 when I taught my first class as a graduate assistant. I believe deeply in the power and importance of education. It can lift us to higher ground from which we can live out all that we have the potential to be. I'm thankful for whatever ways I have been able to help

and support your learning and am proud of so much of the work we've done together that makes Blackburn a truly remarkable place.

So this spring will be goodbye. At Commencement I will feel this most deeply because many of us will be saying the same thing even as we celebrate so much that is best among us. It's a bittersweet thing to say goodbye to friends and colleagues, but leave-taking and the possibility of eventual return are essential themes in human experience. They challenge us, but also deepen our spirits and enrich our hearts. One day we'll all come back at Homecoming and ride the carnival rides that are planned for this fall to be part of that celebration of leave-taking and return. We can each ride the roller coaster and be reminded of our days at Blackburn when time flew by so quickly and we were rushed and jolted in a combination of excitement, surprise, discomfort and joy. See you then.

## Graduation... But Not Really

By Zach Daum

Should college students be able to walk in a graduation ceremony even if they haven't received all of their college credits? Blackburn College has recently been considering taking on special cases when it comes to allowing seniors without all of their credits to walk. This would only be allowed for students with special cases, such as scheduling errors and conflicts or classes becoming unavailable. Students who will not graduate for academic reasons would be denied permission.

Some younger students at Blackburn have strong opinions on whether or not seniors should be able to participate. One student believes it would only be fair for students with almost enough credits to graduate. "They should be allowed to because it would be even more humiliating if they weren't allowed to walk with their friends. I think it would depend on how much more they need. If it is only a class or two they should walk, but if it's going to take them well into a 5+ year they should wait," sophomore education major Maggie



PHOTO COURTESY OF SERGIO RIVAS

Walking at graduation is just as important as receiving that diploma.

Anderson said.

Many other colleges already allow students who have not completed all requirements to walk at graduation. For example, at both MacMurray College and Illinois Wesleyan University, seniors may participate in the graduation ceremony as long as the classes they need to finish are completed by the end of summer.

After meeting on Apr. 24, the Committee on Academic Policy passed the Proposed Petition Policy to Participate in Commencement. It states that,

"Students with no more than six hours to be completed for fulfillment of all requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree may elect to participate in the May Commencement ceremony, but will not receive the degree." In addition, these students would not be able to receive academic or other awards, which would be restricted to students who have completed degree requirements. The policy will be forwarded on to Faculty Senate.

## Meals on Wheels Brings Big Name for Big Need

By Kim Campbell

Senior Services Plus, a not-for-profit organization offering programs and services for older adults, announced the date and entertainment for their Fifth Annual Feed the Need concert. The concert will be held at the Riverfront Amphitheater, located at 1 Riverfront Drive in Alton, Ill.

Executive Director Jonathan Becker announced that country superstar John Michael Montgomery will be playing at the Riverfront Amphitheater in Alton this summer on June 7, 2014. John Michael Montgomery has had several country hits such as 'I Swear', 'Sold', 'Be My Baby Tonight', 'I Love The Way You Love Me' and many, many more great songs.

Local favorite The Harman Family Bluegrass Band is also named as opening act.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROGER WALLSTADT

Meals on Wheels is a program that many older adults rely on to remain independent.

The group is originally from Shipman, Ill. The Harman Family Bluegrass Band today consists of first and second generation musicians having deep roots dating back to 1975. The Harman's musical style ranges from traditional to contemporary bluegrass, country, gospel and other various types of music.

"We are so very excited

to bring these artists to town," added Becker. "We are hoping that many country and bluegrass fans will come out to enjoy the entertainment and learn more about our Meals on Wheels program. The event is a major fundraiser for us, but it is especially important because the show helps to raise awareness for the cause."

According to the Meals

on Wheels Association of America (MOWAA), 1 in 7 senior citizens is going hungry, equaling over 8 million seniors in the United States alone.

Senior Services Plus's Meals on Wheels program currently provides over 650 meals on a daily basis to homebound seniors in 22 townships within Madison and St. Clair counties. The meals are the equivalent to 1/3 of the daily nutritional needs as suggested by the State of Illinois.

"Feed the Need is a fantastic event because it supports such a good cause," said Michael Dewes, the agency's Meals on Wheels Coordinator. "The individuals that we serve are senior citizens who have a very fixed income or who do not have family members nearby. We find that our drivers are delivering

more than just a meal; they are delivering the peace of mind that comes with routine social interaction and the monitoring of the individual's safety and quality of life."

The Feed the Need concert brings the community together with the goal of raising awareness for the Meals on Wheels program. All proceeds from the concert will benefit the agency's Meals on Wheels program.

Individual tickets are \$30 each and are available online at <http://seniorservicesplus.org>. Tickets are also available at the agency's Alton center, located at 2603 North Rodgers Avenue, Alton, Ill. A special Meet & Greet ticket is being offered for an additional \$50. For more information, please call 618-465-3298 or 1-800-233-4904.

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BLACKBURN COLLEGE

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The 'Burnian is a student-run newspaper at Blackburn College. Our mission is to deliver accurate, interesting and timely news to the Blackburn campus as well as the Carlinville community in an ethical and professional manner.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### GUEST COMMENTARIES

Editorials featured on the opinion/commentary page of The 'Burnian contain staff members' opinions. We welcome guest editorials between 400-500 words. The 'Burnian does not endorse featured opinions. All submissions to The 'Burnian may be edited for length and grammatical clarity at the discretion of the editors; however, authors will be contacted if content revisions are necessary.

## Carlinville Area Hospital: Technological Innovation Meets Personalized Patient Care

By Michelle Lee and Miranda Clark

As far as hospitals go, Carlinville Area Hospital is ahead of the game. Between its innovative technology and excellent patient care, it is one of the town's strongest assets.

According to their website, the facility offers "25 private patient rooms, centrally located nursing support stations and highly interrelated departments adjacent to one another." When the hospital moved to its new facility in July 2010, it upgraded all of its technology and equipment.

Some of these innovations include electronic billing and free Wi-Fi throughout the hospital. Patient charts are entirely paperless, done on computers located in each patient room. The hospital earlier this month implemented online patient portals.

There are many services offered at the hospital's main campus and its two clinics located in Carlinville and Girard. The Carlinville Family Health Care clinic is home to a sleep lab. Patients suffering from sleep disorders can be diagnosed after a sleep study administered either at the clinic or in the convenience

and comfort of their own homes. An at-home sleep study is "much more convenient for the patient, but it's also more cost effective as they do not have to use our facility for the testing," explained Marketing and Community Outreach Specialist Melissa Bellovich. Moreover, the hospital located on North Broad Street offers a state-of-the-art imaging service center that includes bone density testing, MRI and CT scanning, ultrasound and mammography.

During any sort of treatment, the hospital strives to make the patients feel at ease while providing the best quality care. Bellovich stressed the importance of thorough patient care. "At our hospital, the staff is very friendly. They know you by name," she said. "It makes a big difference for the patients." Senior English major Kay Lesage had some lab work done at the hospital and was "pleased with the nursing staff. They were very efficient with my blood draw and every staff member was personable," she explained.

Additionally, the hospital makes a strong effort to



PHOTO BY MIRANDA CLARK

Donnette Nance, Certified Nursing Assistant uses a flow chart.

reach out to the community. They have hosted and participated in numerous events in the community, including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation renewal courses, blood drives with Central Illinois Community Blood Center and the Angel Tree Project, which provides Christmas presents for disadvantaged children. Two

of its largest community contributions are the Lunch Bunch program, which provides meals for low income families, and the Better Breather's club, an educational luncheon for people suffering from asthma and other breathing disorders.

Looking to the future, the hospital is looking to make a meaningful connection with

the Blackburn community. "We're going to start providing a flyer in the student packages for new [Blackburn] students. We'll make new students and even existing students aware of what services we have to offer here," said Human Resources and Community Outreach Director Tracy Koster. "We have two rural clinics — one in Girard and one in Carlinville which will obviously be more convenient for Blackburn students. I think that would be valuable to students considering the location." The two clinics opened in summer 2013 and provide complete family care, including immunizations.

"We have the technology but we also have the friendly staff," added Bellovich. "Our staff gets to know you. They're wonderful people and that makes a big difference when you're in a hospital. They are always stopping to help people, call them by name, taking care of family members and making them feel at ease in a not-so-easy setting. We're proud of that here at Carlinville Area Hospital."

## Cummings Officially Graduates After Finishing Classes in December

By Courtney Egner

Landing a job before graduating is pretty exciting, but what about already working before officially graduating? Sounds pretty crazy, right? Not for Mallory Cummings, graduating mathematics major and communications minor. Technically, Cummings already graduated and received her degree, as she finished her final courses in December, but will finally end her journey by walking in graduation. "It's kind of weird. I feel like I have not officially closed that chapter of my life yet," she admitted. Just three days after her last final in December, Mallory started working at Dot Foods, Inc. in Mount Sterling as a supply chain routing analyst. "Basically what I do is increase profit for the company by reducing costs of transportation by creating efficient routes for our trucks." While at Blackburn, Mallory worked for Dianna Ruyle in the records office and for John Malin in transfer admissions. When asked if it was overwhelming to start working right after finishing classes, she said, "After working two

jobs on campus, tutoring and an off campus job, it's been a piece of cake!"

Mallory has been out of Blackburn since December, so besides working a job out in the "real world," what else has she been doing? Mallory became engaged in late December and is currently planning a wedding for November. "It's very exciting! He didn't go to Blackburn, but I met him through my roommate, Jessie Johnson, who graduated last year," she said. Her sisters (one of whom attends Blackburn and may or may not be the writer of this article) and her brother are thrilled to be a part of her wedding this upcoming year.

Reflecting on her experiences at Blackburn, Mallory said that aside from her friends, working for John and Dianna was a memorable experience. "When I'm struggling with a project at work or it's difficult to get through something I can hear Dianna telling me it's okay to have those days because you're not graded in the real world."

## Should Students Pay to Graduate?

By Kayla Koynne



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATHAN T. BAKER

What is that tassel really costing you?

How much are you willing to pay to walk across the stage?

Many students and their families are aware of the growing costs of college, including tuition, room and board, student service fees and textbooks. According to collegedata.com, the average cost just for tuition and fees during the 2013-2014 school year is about \$30,000 for a private education, \$9,000 to attend public colleges and \$22,000 to go to an out-of-state public university. In comparison, the tuition rate at Blackburn was just under \$25,000.

What students may not realize until graduation is exactly how much it costs to walk across the stage and receive their diploma. The cost for cap and gown rental is about \$25. This is arguably the cheapest aspect of graduation. Want to get your photo taken by Blackburn's recommended photographer — Kabance Photo Services, Inc. — as you accept your diploma? That will cost you \$9 for a 5x7 photo or \$12 per 8x10 photo.

Any student who chooses to order graduation announcements through Balfour, the company that Blackburn promotes, can pay anywhere from \$80 to \$150. The least expensive package includes 25 announcements, 25 thank you notes, 25 envelope seals, 50 return address labels, 25 envelopes and one announcement cover. Some Blackburn seniors are ordering announcements while others refuse to spend any more money than necessary on announcements. Senior business management major Kathryn Lorsbach discussed how she is navigating graduation expenses, including family coming from California to watch her receive her

diploma. "I ended up spending about \$60 on announcements and seals," she said. "I have a small family so I did not need the number posted in the packages and just bought individual items." Others are shopping around on places like Etsy and Walgreens. "All together I paid less than half of what the company wanted for double the announcements [on Etsy]. I spent less than \$30 for almost 50 announcements," senior biology major Risa Huff shared. Ordering from somewhere else poses problems though. For example, the person who Huff ordered from on Etsy refused to add in an image of Barney the Beaver on the announcements since she did not own the copyright to it. What this means is that students cannot use Blackburn logos or markers if they order from a company other than the one sponsored by Blackburn. Some are turning to Facebook to announce their graduation date rather than using traditional announcements.

By far the most expensive option for graduating students is a class ring. The most generic ring offered is just over \$400 while the most expensive is nearly \$1,000. It is one item that most seniors are avoiding altogether although it is one marker of their graduation success that they could potentially wear for the rest of their lives. "I was going to get a ring but when I found out the cheapest one was \$400, I ixnayed that thought," said Lorsbach.

A small number of seniors are simply avoiding the cost of graduation. "I don't have enough time to worry about all of that since I need to focus on graduating and living afterwards," stated senior performing arts major Reggie Guyton.

## Old Memories, New Beginnings

By Max Vitori

Blackburn has changed a lot in the past four years and the 2014 graduating class has seen it all, from changes in housing to changes in the president's office. Here are just a few things our seniors will remember moving forward that our incoming freshmen will never experience:

1. Mim Pride and Jeff Aper: Current Blackburn students may find it difficult to imagine a Blackburn without administrative landmarks Mim Pride and Jeff Aper. The transition from Mim to new president John Comerford is already a year underway, but Jeff Aper's recent announcement of his migration to Millikin University in the fall has taken many students by surprise. Our new president and future provost have big shoes to fill.

2. The Kings of Campus: North Hall (officially named Challacombe Hall) was designated as a men's dorm until the fall semester of 2012, when Blackburn responded to its majority female enrollment by opening the first floor to women. Incoming freshmen will never have seen North Hall in what some students still refer to as its "glory days," and the "RIP Kings of Campus"

shirts may have disappeared from campus by the time they arrive.

3. The Marvel: The Marvel Theater has been open for almost a century up until its recent closing. While rumors of its reopening still circulate around campus, it's very possible that students new to Blackburn next semester will never experience Free Movie Night or have the opportunity to visit The Marvel for a couple hours of relaxing entertainment.

4. Old School Sodexo: Changes in staff and menu at Ding have made students more satisfied with their primary meal option this semester. Incoming students won't remember a time when there wasn't a vegetarian bar or have to deal with the lid falling off the old soup pot and splashing all over their pants.

5. Upperclassmen in Jewell: When next year's freshmen arrive on campus, they'll be housed in Jewell's Freshman Living Learning Community, which is ... the entire building. They won't remember a time when upperclassmen lived on the second floor, or even a time when the entire building didn't have air conditioning.

6. Retiring Professors: For graduating seniors who've spent four or five years with them, it might be hard to imagine some of our academic departments without retiring professors such as Dr. Victor "Jake" Miller, Dr. Sam Meredith, Dr. Greg Meyer and Professor Roy Graham. New students arriving next fall will never take classes with them and will only hear about them from remaining faculty and upperclassmen sharing their fond memories.

7. Campus-wide Gendered Housing: Next fall's Gender Inclusive Housing wing will be the first of its kind at Blackburn. Students who live there will be permitted to live with the roommate of their choosing (as long as they aren't dating each other) regardless of gender. Incoming students won't remember a time when this wasn't an option.

Although this year's graduates will remember some of these things fondly, students new to Blackburn in the fall will still have a lot to look forward to. One thing about Blackburn that will never change: our spirit of hard work!

## Hefty Increase in Blackburn Application Rates

By Lindsey Becker

While there's certainly no shortage of students griping about Blackburn's shortcomings, more prospective students than ever before are choosing to apply. The application rate has increased 58% from 2012 to 2014, with more students being admitted as well. In 2011, the application to admit rate was 51% compared to 64% in 2014.

"We have an amazing staff this year. They are really pulling up their bootstraps and they are hitting the ground running," said Alisha Kapp, Director of Admissions, who cites several reasons for the sudden increase. One is new financial initiatives put in place by President John Comerford designed to keep expenses low. The Affordable Access Award, or the Triple A Program, is designed to waive the tuition fees of students with great financial need. Blackburn is the only college in Illinois to implement such a program and one of only a few in the nation. "We're looking at making college affordable," said Kapp. "We want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to receive a private

education." Another program in place this year is the Guidance Counselor Scholarship which is available to all public and private high schools in Illinois. This \$1000 scholarship is divvied out to the guidance counselors of those high schools, who then award it to one student they believe is a good fit for Blackburn.

Kapp believes another reason for the recent rise in applications is Blackburn's commitment to interpersonal relationships with its prospective students and enrollees. "We're continuing to give personal attention in this world of social media and instant gratification, and we're still supporting our roots where it's the one-on-one attention," said Kapp.

Building relationships with local high schools has

proved effective. Kapp said that Associate Director of Admissions and Coordinator of Athletic Recruiting Justin Norwood has been able to create lasting relationships with many local schools over the past three years, resulting in those guidance counselors recommending Blackburn to a steady stream of students.

Although the increase might not seem like a big deal at first glance, the higher application and enrollee rates are actually quite beneficial to the school. When admission goals are surpassed, each student admitted generates more revenue. The money created by higher admission rates can then be put back into the college and used to improve facilities and other areas at Blackburn — so it's good news for all those complainers out there.



PHOTO BY LINDSEY BECKER

Prospective students are welcomed by this sign in DCC.

## The Pirates of Blackburn

By Zach Daum



PHOTO BY ZACH DAUM

Torrenting can dramatically decrease internet speed for the entire campus.

Are pirates lurking in the halls of Blackburn College? Online pirating is when an internet user illegally downloads material owned by another company, usually through the use of torrent software. But how much can a student download using torrent software on the school's internet service before it becomes a problem? Torrenting, or downloading online data through specially designed torrenting programs where data is shared through peers, is often used to pirate copyrighted material.

According to network administrator and junior criminal justice major Josh Thompson, downloading through torrenting at Blackburn is allowed. "On campus our users are allowed to download whatever content

they want and at their own discretion. The only limitation is bandwidth usage. Torrenting uses up a large amount of bandwidth, which slows down internet for the rest of the users," said Thompson. He believes that torrent software is a good thing because it speeds up downloads significantly, but it can cause problems with internet speeds all over campus. While it is allowed, Network administrator Tyler Lewis says that Blackburn discourages torrenting whenever possible "because the amount of traffic it puts through our network system is so much more than basic use of the internet and it's unnecessary."

Torrent software is not always used to pirate copyrighted material, but one student believes that pirating actually can help the artist

or creator of the work being pirated. "I don't think pirating hurts big companies too much anyway. It barely scratches them. If you pirate a song or something, it would make them a fan and they would want to go to a concert to see them in person," said junior graphic design major DeAaron Williams. He believes that overall piracy is less damaging than what people think.

Many large corporations have tried to limit access to torrent hosting websites such as the well known Pirate Bay. These corporations have been relatively unsuccessful in blocking torrent hosting sites. The Motion Picture Association of America has also been a strong advocate against internet piracy and torrenting. It argues that piracy of movies through the use of torrenting software costs corporations millions of dollars yearly. Torrenting is one of the most effective and fastest ways to download data from the internet but its use as a tool for internet piracy has made it controversial. With its high bandwidth usage and use in pirating data, the network administrators believe that torrenting at Blackburn is not advised.

## Tim Talks Back

By Tim Morenz



Tim Morenz, the College Counselor

Greetings and Salutations, Blackburn College!

This is the last issue of the Burnian for the 2013-2014 academic year and my first completed term as College Counselor. I am amazed at all of the growth that I have seen in Blackburn students, faculty and staff. I have grown along the way as well. For the past year I have provided responses to your questions regarding mental health and wellness topics, but in this final issue I will be talking back to you. Numerous graduating seniors have stopped by my office recently and the question has been exactly the same:

**“So? What do I do now?”**

Facing the future and the unknown can certainly provoke anxiety and uncertainty. Transitioning from adolescence to adulthood in the form of receiving a degree or certificate can awaken feelings of bitterness or resentment, anxiety and fear, or joy and gratitude, or maybe a combination of all of those things together. However, if I were to form a “what’s next” plan, I would include the following elements:

**A moment of gratitude.** Giving yourself time to experience a moment of gratitude and appreciation can be moving and powerful. You completed another year of your education or you will graduate. Way to go! Allow yourself time to thank yourself for the diligence and dedication that you demonstrated in the face of adversity. Take time to meet with individuals who have helped you along the way. You might gain insight and wisdom on the way out.

**Have a written plan.**

There is something magical that happens when we take the time to discuss our goals and then commit them to paper. I am not suggesting that you map out your future, but I am suggesting that you have a plan on how you approach it. What you might write is what went right, what were the difficulties and what role you played in both. We cannot approach the future until we know exactly what happened in the past. You might gain insight in how to move forward by looking back.

**Surround yourself with support.** Friends, family and mentors are all necessary members in your community and will help provide the accountability you need. I might also include someone specific to mentor you and someone specific for you to mentor. Part of the plan needs to include paying it forward.

For those of you coming back, I look forward to meeting with you. For those of you leaving, I wish you nothing but good fortune and learning in the face of adversity. It has been a pleasure to serve you.

Until next time, BEAVER NATION!!

## Students Upset and Speaking Out: Has Residence Life Taken It Too Far?

By Haley Welch

When freshmen arrive on campus, Residence Life members are usually the first people to greet them. From day one the students are told that the job of their RAs (Resident Assistants) and RDs (Resident Directors) is to have an open door to help and make the dorms safe and fun. But what happens when students begin to feel targeted or harassed by

typically have established themselves enough to manage the workload, whereas a freshman is figuring out how to navigate college (one of the reasons the Freshman Living and Learning Community was created at Blackburn to help freshmen adjust).

After his meeting with Moran, Cozart said there was no use talking to him if “he

Similarly, Gragnano and Rowe described an instance with Moran where they felt lines were crossed. Both students said that during an alleged verbal attack by Moran last year that they felt trapped and intimidated.

The verbal altercation occurred after Gragnano and Rowe had set to work to gather witnesses for a hearing regarding an alcohol write-up they had received (while both were over 21, students who are of age may still be found in violation of college regulations if they blow over a .08 on a breathalyzer). Unaware that it was procedure for all witnesses to be present at their hearing, Rowe recounted that he had spoken with several Residence Life members (including RA Jeanette Kelly and Director of Student Activities and New Student Orientation Abbey Hardin) who had been present the night he and his roommate Gragnano had been written up. After stopping Samantha Yoder (who was RD of Butler last year) to ask for her attendance, Rowe commented that she was

dorm room to talk. Once inside Gragnano and Rowe stated that the door was shut and Hardin and Moran stood in front of it. Gragnano recounted, “Basically what he [Moran] said was, ‘You need to stop harassing my staff. If you have questions come to me. Your harassment is getting out of control ... I am going to call the police on you guys if you do not stop harassing my Res. Life Staff.’” According to Rowe and Gragnano, the Residence Life staff Moran said they had allegedly been harassing were students such as Yoder and Kelly whom they had approached to serve as witnesses.

Former RD Yoder noted that she never felt bothered by the two students. “I personally never felt harassed by them,” said Yoder. “They were just looking for information and I was happy to give it to them. I think in these situations sometimes Tim made it worse and I just wanted to let them know what exactly would be happening at the hearing ... It was just a sucky situation all around,” Yoder said.

**“No way would I ever yell at someone in a dorm. That is completely unprofessional.”**

DIRECTOR OF RESIDENCE LIFE TIM MORAN

the first and only person who informed him that all witnesses were required to be present, making his request unneeded.

After speaking with Yoder, Rowe and Gragnano were later leaving their room in Graham and Moran. The staff members asked to have a meeting, and the two students went back to their

During the verbal altercation, Rowe and Gragnano also reported that Moran was allegedly shouting and pointing his finger at them. Of the alleged experience, Rowe said, “When we are here, this room is our home. It’s where we come to rejuvenate and regain composure from a stressful day; it is our safe haven, and he

**“When we are here, this room is our home. It’s where we come to rejuvenate and regain composure from a stressful day; it is our safe haven, and he really invaded it.”**

DREW ROWE

Residence Life members? For Blackburn students such as sophomore Andrew Cozart and seniors Christian Gragnano and Drew Rowe, they say this is the case.

Earlier this year Cozart was informed that his roommate and childhood friend Jake Royer was repeatedly approached by Director of Residence Life Tim Moran to tell him that his roommate — Andrew Cozart — was a bad influence. Cozart took matters into his own hands and set up a meeting with Moran where he inquired if he had a problem with him. According to Cozart, Moran responded “No,” and that he had not said to Royer that Cozart was a problem, but that Moran had told Royer he had heard rumors that Cozart was a bad influence.

Concerning Cozart’s allegations, Moran responded, “Hypothetically speaking, we have seen issues with freshmen students living with upperclassmen.” Moran went on to explain that there is support in higher education research that older students

### Is Grad School for Me?

By Jess Clements

According to statisticbrain.com, there are 574,618 Master’s degrees and 52,631 Doctorate degrees awarded annually. With graduation upon us, it is important to think about what your next step will be. Should you go straight to work or go to graduate school and get a higher degree? To get the answer there are some questions you need to ask yourself first.

Does the career I want to pursue require a degree higher than a bachelor’s? Some careers require a master’s or doctorate degree to even apply. It is important to do some research on the career path you want to take to see if it is necessary to receive a higher degree. For example, being a marriage and family therapist, school administrator or professor requires you to have a more advanced degree.

How much more schooling will I need? Depending on the major and degree you are pursuing, you could be looking at an additional two to eight or more years of school. Some people have no problem being in school that long, while others want to get out of school as soon as possible. If you are the latter, graduate school may not be the right choice for you.

Is being in school that long really worth it? This once again depends on if you are required

to achieve a higher degree for the career path you are looking at. There are jobs out there that will take individuals with a Bachelor’s degree. However, advanced and more specified positions often require a higher degree. It all comes down to what your career path looks like.

Can I afford graduate school? Graduate school can be expensive but there are ways of getting financial help. Many universities offer assistantships that will help cover some, if not all, of the cost of your education. Assistantships are often in the form of being a research assistant or a teacher’s aide for an undergraduate class. There are also some companies that offer tuition reimbursement to their employees who are attending graduate school. According to the list on affordablecollegesonline.org, some of these companies

include Walmart, Apple, AT&T, Comcast and many more.

Graduate school is not for everyone, but it may be required for the career you are looking to enter into. Fully researching and understanding your career choice is always a good step to take when considering whether or not to attend graduate school.

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### Introducing Bob Underbrink

By Patrick Benedict

Robert Underbrink, former head librarian for Blackburn from 1967 until 1990, had a lot to say about the craft of writing and the research that comes with it. Underbrink, who has authored three books including “Somewhere We Will Find You,” “Destination Corregidor” and “The Lure of Gold,” recently sat down to discuss his creative process.

Two of Underbrink’s books are about World War II and shed quite a bit of light on several areas of the world that are often overlooked.

“When most people discuss the war all they think about is Europe and Germany,” said Underbrink. In “Somewhere We Will Find You,” Underbrink brings the areas of China, Burma (Myanmar) and India (CBI) into the limelight of the war. The book is a series of short recollections from pilots who were part of various search and rescue missions in the CBI. Underbrink talked a lot about how he got some of this information. “I would talk to some of the pilots and determined that some sort of

article has to be made. As I got further into the research, I realized that the subject warranted an entire book.”

Underbrink went on to explain his process for interviewing the veterans and missionaries who had been there. “When finding a topic to write about you should ask yourself: Who would know about this?” he said. “Are they still alive? If not, where can I find some sort of records on them?” Underbrink explained that the key to getting better interview results is to “know

about the subject really well and use that information to jog the memories of the interviewees.” He also went on to say that “after talking to one person it is easier to talk to another person who was very close with them (i.e., members of the same unit).” Underbrink also talked about his book “The Lure of Gold,” a look into the world of treasure hunting, describing it as a fun book. Underbrink explained that the book is “an annotated bibliography of books dealing with all kinds of treasure.”

## Failure to Launch

By Lindsey Becker



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALVIMANN

Student debt combined with low-paying jobs have more students than ever moving back home.

An increasing number of recent college graduates are failing to launch — and no, we're not talking about a bad Matthew McConaughey movie here. Now more than ever an alarming number of college students are opting to live with their parents after graduating college. Known as the "Boomerang Generation," it's becoming more and more difficult for recent grads to afford living on their own.

According to census data collected by The Atlantic, 45% of recent college graduates return to live at home. There are several factors playing into this phenomenon, including unemployment, student debt and college graduates working jobs that don't require a college degree.

The most obvious reason

for this trend is mounting student debt. A study published by The New York Daily News reports that 34% of students face debt of at least \$30,000, while 17% have to tackle a whopping \$30,000-\$50,000. Luckily, debt for the average Blackburn student hits below this spectrum. Assuming a student completes their education in four years, they're able to take out \$27,000 total in loans, and the average debt comes in at \$18,090. However, paying off loans still remains a concern for some students. "After graduation I'm moving back home with my parents. That way I can save up my money and start paying on my loans without worrying about paying for an apartment or a house," said senior business major Courtney Bonnell.

"Right now, I'm broke," she added.

Student debt aside, the dismal state of the job market is making it harder for recent graduates to generate enough income to make it on their own, and many aren't able to find jobs right out of undergrad. In the same study conducted by The Atlantic, 42% of recent graduates say that they will have to acquire another degree in order to land a career and 25% are already planning to attend grad school. Similarly, many college grads are accepting positions that don't even require a college degree.

"I plan on moving out at some point, but it's not something I'm going to place a high priority on," said senior marketing and business management major Aaron Szerletich. Although he doesn't have student debt to worry about, unemployment is still a major concern. "Job availability is a huge issue when finding housing," he said.

The good news for Blackburn students is that although students may be low on cash upon graduating, a study carried out by the Association of American Colleges and Universities shows that in the long term job-seekers with liberal arts degrees make \$2,000 more at peak earning ages than people with professional or pre-professional degrees. While it may seem like many college graduates are failing to launch, perhaps they're just launching at a slower rate to adjust.

## Dating Tips to the Freshers from the Wise

By Katrina Miller

Hey ladies! Ever wish you had someone to tell you what and what not to do when it comes to dating? I interviewed senior ladies and asked them to give dating advice that they wish they had had to the freshman girls. We came up with the following six "rules" that we thought would be good to go by.

**Do not come to college with a significant other.** Go out and experience college! This is COLLEGE, not high school. There are too many new things to experience and significant others tend to hold you back. Making girlfriends first is very important because they will be there for you in the long run. Learn how to manage your time with work, classes and homework. Sounds easy ... but it is not! "Freedom" from your parents is liberating and you will more than likely slip up a couple times.

**Do not get a significant other until sophomore year (at least).** You need to establish a positive reputation — you can create a whole "new" you since you are not in high school and the majority of people will not know you. You can be whoever you wish to be. Establish your study habits and balance them with your social life. This is called "multitasking." It is hard to remember to study when there is a huge party to attend on Thursday night.

**Do not date, talk or text with your friends' exes or hookups.** Would you like that

to happen to you? No. End of story.

Once you do have a significant other please manage your time wisely. What do we mean by that? Spend quality time with your family, friends and then your boyfriend.

**Do NOT ditch your plans with your friends.** Why? Because friends will last forever; significant others may not. Trust your gut; if you have your guard up ... there is a reason! What does having your guard up mean? It can mean not trusting that person, feeling that this is not a good idea or worrying about what that person is doing. LISTEN to these signs ... your body is trying to tell you something.

**Last and most important! If your friends and family do not like them ... there is a reason!**

Reasons why: Your mother's intuition is REAL! Your father knows a man from a boy, so trust his instincts. Your friends see your relationship from the outside; they can tell you what it looks like and make better judgment due to them looking in on your relationship. Love is blinding.

I am not saying that you have to abide by these "rules" but I wish someone would have shared their experiences with me when I was a freshman. It would have saved me many tear-filled nights. Good luck ladies! I wish you the best with your dating and professional lives here at Blackburn College.

Do not date, talk or text with your friends' exes or hookups. Would you like that

## Talk Nerdy to Me: Size Matters ... for Conventions, that is

By Zach Daum



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON GREY

Comic conventions are known to attract some real characters.

Pop culture fans in the southern Illinois area have more to do now than ever because of the multiple large scale comic and anime conventions coming yearly to St. Louis such as Wizard World Con and Anime St. Louis. Celebrities such as Adam West, Matt Smith and William Shatner all make regular appearances at the touring Wizard World con, which travels all over the country. These celebrities make large amounts of money from autographs and pictures that comic con visitors pay for. Matt Smith regularly charges

\$100 for an autograph and \$200 for 6 seconds to take a photograph at the Wizard World convention. This is what draws many celebrities to appear at these conventions.

Attracted not only by famous actors and celebrities, fans also attend the conventions because local comic book creators come to promote their own independent comic book creations. But problems have come about because of the size of these large conventions. "I used to attend the San Francisco Wondercon, a convention run by the same

guy that run the San Diego Comic Con for four straight years. I watched it grow to the point where the floor was packed and moving around was nearly impossible," said St. Louis comic book writer Steve Higgins.

One Blackburn intern and regular convention-goer had a few problems at the St. Louis Wizard World con. "We were sitting on the ground, backs against a pillar eating and a security guard asked us to move. Then she proceeded to ask everyone else who was doing the same to move as well. We had to go to some back corner with several other people who were also just trying to get out of the way and get off their feet to eat," said counseling intern Melissa Jones. She also said that celebrities wouldn't allow people who paid high prices for pictures to take them with their own camera or phones, except for "Walking Dead" actor Jon Bernthal. According to Jones, Bernthal allowed for people to take photos of him with their phones, even in the autograph line. No other celebrities at conventions normally allow this.

Do the problems that come with large conventions outweigh the good? Smaller conventions draw in a small crowd and consist of more local comic book creators rather than

## I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

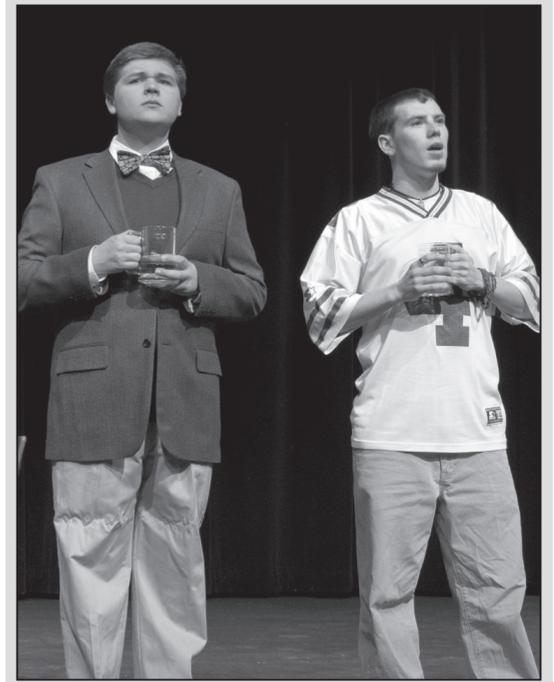


PHOTO BY DANI ANDERSON

Sawyer Burton and Jay Maxson sing together in the spring musical.

big names. This means a less crowded convention. It also puts local comic book creators at an advantage because more people will be likely to stop and talk to them, but without celebrities to draw in the crowds independent creators get less exposure. With or

without these problems, more people are exposed to comic book conventions in the area now than ever before, and for fans that is definitely a good thing.

## "How I Met Your Mother" Ending Stirs All the Feels

By Jake DeRousse

The final episode of "How I Met Your Mother" (often abbreviated "HIMYM") brought about more emotions than I would care to admit. Could this be a result of "HIMYM" and my favorite show "Psych" both having their series finales within a month of each other, making it seem as if there are no good shows for me anymore? Perhaps. More likely this reaction stems from having a series that I love suffer through what was — in my opinion — a less than stellar final season, only to wrap things up with a finality rarely seen at the end of popular series.

The last season as a whole was not one that I would call good. Like "The Office," the final season of "HIMYM" had an entirely different feel from the rest of the series. In "The Office" the change actually constituted the last two seasons after Michael Scott left Dunder Mifflin; in "HIMYM" the entire final season was set



PHOTO BY MYOWNSTYLE1234

The cast of "How I Met Your Mother" with main character Ted Mosby in the center.

the week before Robin and Barney's wedding instead of focusing on the "gang's" antics in New York City and on main character Ted Mosby's dating life. Marshall Eriksen, Ted's best friend, was gone for over half the season and all of Ted's stories were merely flashbacks, not ones that would really impact what was going on in his life at the time. Some of the other storylines — Barney getting cold feet about

being married, Robin and Ted having one last romantic moment before she married someone else — were simply predictable or seemingly played out. One of the aspects of the first eight seasons of the show that made it so successful was the stand-alone quality of each episode. Yes, there were overarching storylines but you could watch a random episode of "HIMYM" without feeling like you were missing vital

information. Each episode had its own story. The same could not be said about the final season in which many of the episodes built on previous ones.

Though the final season as a whole was disappointing, "HIMYM" pulled off a great finale. It combined nostalgia over the show's ending — goodbyes to the characters and apartment, à la "Friends" — and a conclusion that tied

together the ongoing plot lines from the series. Ted met the mother of his children — who are the audience for the show — but she apparently passed away from some kind of terminal sickness. During their marriage Robin and Barney got a divorce and Robin distanced herself from her former friends. The series then ended by showing a much older Ted wrapping up the story with his children. They immediately called him out about the fact that Ted was using the story not as a way to tell about their mother, but as a way to judge their opinion on him now trying to date Robin. Earlier in the season there was a flashback to Ted saying "I will never stop loving you" to Robin, and he had an on-again off-again obsession with her the entire series. The children immediately accepted Ted pursuing Robin, and the show ended with him showing up at her window. To any true fan, this was a satisfying ending to a terrific show.

## Amber Byrley: Who She Is and What She's Here for

By Rachael Lancey

From the softball field to the science labs to rounds of campus while on call as Resident Director, chances are you have had the chance to meet Amber Byrley. More commonly known as A.B., this senior Blackburnian has managed to build an impressive resume during her four years.

Originally from Palestine, Ill., A.B. chose to come to Blackburn to do just that. As the Resident Director of Jones hall, she has managed to accomplish her goals inside and out of the classroom. Her success came with plenty of hard work. After being placed in campus services her freshman year, Byrley has made the most out of every opportunity presented to her.

One of those opportunities was to play softball. In fact, joining Blackburn's softball team has proven to be one of A.B.'s favorite college

experiences. "Softball has taught me how to balance school, a sport and work. I love the girls on the team and I know they have my back no matter what," said Byrley. One of A.B.'s favorite memories with her team is trips to Beaver Dam at odd hours of the night when they would try to catch fish with their hands. Her other memorable experiences include bonding with her teammates on the way to away games and their spring break trips to Myrtle Beach.

A.B.'s role as a Resident Director has been challenging yet rewarding. Her favorite part of her job is meeting new people, helping them with whatever they need and doing things she never thought she would be capable of. "A.B. is an awesome RD. She balances professionalism and friendliness effortlessly. She leads by being a supporter and I couldn't ask for a better



PHOTO BY PR

AB's headshot for Res. Life.

boss. I have learned so much from the example she has set," said senior Resident Assistant Hailey Bodiford.

A.B. has been thrown a few curveballs both on and off of the softball field. Majoring in biology with an environmental science minor, she planned to use her degree to get into chiropractic school. The experience she gained in Residence Life over the past three years, however, has influenced her to pursue a different path in life.

Byrley was recently accepted to the Eastern Illinois University's graduate program where she will major in college student affairs and student development. She will also complete a graduate assistantship as an Associate Resident Director where she will work in a residence hall performing duties similar to the ones she does now. Her job training will begin at the end of this summer and she will begin classes in the fall.

As for the rest of the semester, Byrley is looking

forward to completing her senior seminar which was inspired by a documentary she watched late one night on CNN called "Weeds." Her research centered around medical marijuana with a specific focus on non psychotropic cannabinoids. Byerly was inspired to do more research on this topic after hearing the story of a young girl whose seizures were treated with medical marijuana.

Wherever A.B.'s life takes her after graduation it is clear that Blackburn has helped pave the way for her future. "Amber is an enthusiastic person with natural leadership qualities. She has matured into a thoughtful, kind and genuine person that is a pleasure to be around. I expect great things from Amber in the future," said chemistry and biology professor Dr. David Reid.

The GAP

By Tavi Wallace



PHOTO BY TAVI WALLACE

Wallace took some time out last year to figure out just what she wanted to do with her life.

“Wait, you’re 20 years old ... and you’re a freshman? How?” This is generally the question I am asked when someone around campus finds out my age. No, I didn’t repeat a year of high school. No, I didn’t flunk out and transfer to Blackburn from another college. The honest truth is that towards the end of my senior year of high school I realized I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. I had always wanted to volunteer long-term at some point, so I decided to move to Tucson, Ariz., to work for a non-profit and take a gap year to try to figure out just what I wanted to do.

Although there isn’t really one specific definition for what constitutes a gap year,

the general idea of it is that it is seen as a period of time that people use to explore areas of personal interest. The concept of taking a year off for self-exploration is not a new one. It is very common around the world, in European countries especially, for high school graduates to spend a gap year traveling the world, checking off bucket list items or volunteering before college. This practice of taking time out is slowly becoming more popular in the United States, with many young adults splitting up their educational years before and during college.

A gap year doesn’t even have to last a full year and can be taken at any age.

Some individuals take gap years (known generally as sabbaticals) once they have established careers that would allow them to take time off without, well ... getting fired. That being said, the typical gap year is taken by students between high school and college.

I personally feel the word ‘gap’ is a good way to describe such a period because what you gain fills in what you can’t learn in school. It’s what happens after school (aka stepping into the ‘real world’) and how you go about making important decisions that will give you a set of skills needed to live your life.

Some might say I’m crazy for taking a gap year (and I still wouldn’t argue too much with that), but it truly was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made and I would strongly encourage anyone who is unsure of what direction they’re headed on the “path of life” to take one. I say choose the path less traveled by ... taking a gap year! To some it might seem like students who choose such a path are perhaps being lazy or indecisive by taking time off during their educational year, but this could not be any further from the truth. In reality, they will be learning lessons you just can’t learn inside classroom walls. And that will make all the difference.

Another Compliment

By Steven Jones

A compliment can be perceived in different ways. For a man, he may compliment a woman to gain something, either to boost her confidence, to get in her pants or just to give a genuine compliment. Women on the other hand can perceive these compliments in many different ways, but the most common usually ends with a rejected compliment.

I don’t believe the way society is changing is for the better. The term “old school” is used to describe chivalry such as being courteous, generous and everyone’s favorite, opening the door for your date. The reason those characteristics are affiliated with the old school cliché is because chivalry has been lost. Most men have stopped putting that extra effort in trying to impress women.

But why? Some may believe the change in society and the flaunting of sex is to blame for men’s lack of effort. Media is shaping our culture by changing the way we interact with those of the opposite sex. We went from love stories like “I Love Lucy” to something like “Flavor of Love.” Nowadays it does not take much for two people to hook up compared to years ago when there were unwritten processes to go through such as a five date rule, no sex

before marriage or even the approval of parents. Whatever the case may be, something has changed and chivalry has been forgotten. It’s a collective effort and both men and women are to blame.

It has gotten to the point where women have completely tuned out any compliment from a man and men only use compliments to get some, and this is a problem. The characteristics and measures of a good compliment have shifted. A simple “you’re beautiful” from a guy may be a genuine statement, but history has shown most women that compliments come with agendas so mentally it has already been disregarded.

I wish it did not have to be like that. When I give a compliment to a woman it is to let her know that her effort is appreciated. Even though these are legit compliments, they mirror many others and get tossed away like a bad apple. So what could the solution be, if there even is one? If it were up to me I would tell both men and women to look at what’s happening from the other’s point of view. For men, try to think about how a woman would accept your compliment and adjust from there. For women, try to actually think like a man and analyze the compliment’s form and delivery to decide if it’s legit.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SMILLA4

How can a lady decide if a man is trying to be her knight in shining armor or if he’s just trying to have a one night stand?

I encourage others to keep a journal after both positive and negative experiences to keep a record of their feelings and thoughts. In addition, diverse experiences allow you to build different skill sets, which will make you more employable.

Seek wisdom from others. Something that has helped me discover my life aspirations is talking to other people who love their jobs. People who have found their vocations are excellent career resources from whom to seek

advice. These conversations can be enlightening, so always keep an open ear when these opportunities arise. Aside from career advice, these people can be excellent mentors for your personal life, too.

“And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven’t found it yet, keep looking. Don’t settle. As with all matters of the heart, you will know when you found it,” noted Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple.

CHI ALPHA

By Jake DeRousse

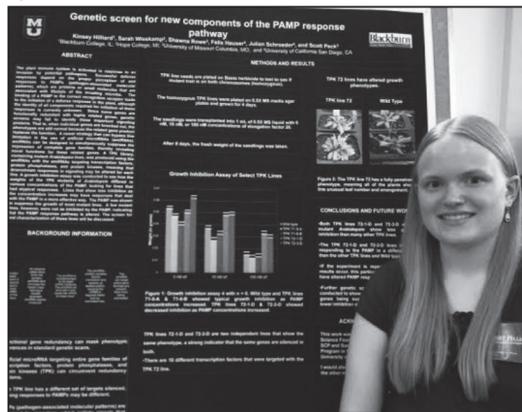


PHOTO COURTESY OF KINSEY HILLIARD

Kinsey Hilliard posing with her display for her summer research at Mizzou, an example of a Blackburn athlete excelling in the academic realm.

In a piece for the Iowa State Daily, journalist Anthony Bader said, “Given how much time per week that the athletes put into their sport, participating in college athletics is essentially a full-time job.” While many rules have been put into place to try and limit practice time for the different sports, joining any college sport still requires a major time commitment. Yet some students take on this time commitment and still manage to keep excellent grades.

On Saturday May 3, 2014, Blackburn College will honor these students by having its inaugural induction for the Chi Alpha Sigma National College Athlete Honor Society. It has been noted before that seven of the twelve department managers are current or former Blackburn athletes, so there is no doubt that athletes can shine at Blackburn outside of their competition. One of the goals during Angie Morenz’s first full year as Athletic Director was to find a way to recognize student-athletes who not only excelled in their individual sports but also in the classroom. “Starting Chi Alpha Sigma seemed like the next step in celebrating the accomplishments of our student-athletes. In collegiate athletics, specifically at the NCAA Division III level, we are constantly reminded that athletes are students first. This type of organization emphasizes excellence in scholarly pursuits,” said Morenz. To do this she applied to have Blackburn become a

Learn. Work. Earn. Win?

By Jake DeRousse

Blackburn athletics are broken. This is the short and painful truth. Teams do not win and students have come not only to expect the loss, but to accept it. In my opinion an entire philosophy change needs to happen for many of the sports teams in order to produce a winner. Hiring Angie Morenz was an excellent decision for the college that has steered the department as a whole in the right direction, but the teams still need to follow suit and make improvements.

One problem that many teams have is where the players are drawn from. A large percentage of Blackburn athletes — much like the student population overall — are from one of the three following areas: St. Louis, Chicago or within a one-hour radius of Carlinville. While something can certainly be said about recruiting locally — Rayvonte Rice was the leading scorer for the Illinois Illini this year and is from Champaign — the fact that most people just two hours north have not even heard of the college is a problem. By not recruiting heavily from a wider area the college does not even get the chance to draw from the much larger talent pool available. The most successful programs in the SLIAC recruit from all

areas of the USA — just look at the Spalding basketball roster — so the least that can be asked of Blackburn is to recruit from all areas of Illinois.

Recruiting people from different areas is a nice concept, but does not make a difference if the talent recruited is mediocre. In order to maximize the talent level of Blackburn sports teams, more emphasis should be placed on recruiting junior college transfers. Christian Gragnano discussed this in a full-length article last year and his points were all solid. Taking players from a junior college means that they are more experienced and mature when they get to Blackburn. A team of seniors will usually beat a similarly talented team of freshmen and sophomores. Junior colleges are also usually just better competition than Division

III, so the athletes playing for them are generally going to be better than those who go straight to DIII. Many times players go to junior colleges with aspirations to attain a DI or DII scholarship. In order to have these aspirations the player must be either highly delusional or talented. Adding more junior college transfers would infuse all Blackburn teams with talent comparable to — or better than — that of the rest of the conference.

Obviously the process to turn all of Blackburn sports into consistent winners is more than a two-step recruiting-based strategy. The fact remains that Blackburn needs to improve on its sports programs through whatever means necessary, as the current state is unacceptable. I look forward to coming back for my 10 year reunion with a few more banners in Dawes.



PHOTO BY AURORA GRIMMETT

Quame Jefferson going up for a lay-up during a basketball game.

Re-meet the Old ... Er ... New Cross-Country Coach Mark Hopping

By Jake DeRousse

Trends in American fashion happen in a cyclical manner. A type of clothing style becomes popular for a time, then fades and becomes obscure. Decades later that same style is deemed “retro” and it becomes popular again. Mark Hopping is like fashion, only his cycle was one year instead of decades. Only one year after resigning from the position, Hopping will be back for the 2014 season as head cross-country coach.

At the end of the 2012 cross-country season Hopping had to make a tough choice. At the time he was working both as a coach and as a full time employee of the Carlinville School District. Saying that he did not have the time to commit to both jobs like he should, Hopping decided to step down from his coaching position to allow someone with more time flexibility to take over. The decision did not turn out to be final, however, as Hopping continually showed up at practice and ran with the team. “My passion for running and

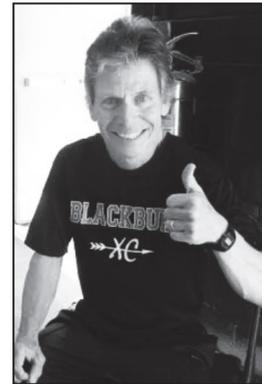


PHOTO BY FITNESS-A-GO-GO

Mark Hopping is excited to be back on track ... well, cross-country, that is.

helping teach these athletes just kept bringing me back,” said Hopping.

After a down year for the program, Hopping was offered the job back and made a different decision. He resigned from the Carlinville school district, allowing him to focus solely on Blackburn cross-country. Said Hopping, “I missed [coaching] and I made a decision with the new administration to try and build

this program ... I’ve traded working with kids for the ‘older kids.’” While Hopping’s basic philosophy on coaching has not changed, he now has the time to do parts of the job that were not possible in his first stint as coach. Hopping says that he has much more time for recruiting and is also excited to be able to work more closely with each runner. “I plan to contour more individual workouts because I have more time for more detailed ones. I am now available for more training ... if someone wants to say, ‘Hey Mark, let’s get some miles in at 5 a.m.’ I’m there.”

Hopping is extremely optimistic for the upcoming season, citing impressive performances by sophomore Nathan Speckhart (third in his age group) and freshman Tavi Wallace (second) in the Lincoln Presidential Half Marathon as reasons for optimism. Said Hopping, “I was extremely shocked, surprised and proud of what our runners did in Springfield ... we’re going to have a great season.”

Find Your Passion

By Miranda Clark

What brings you joy? In other words, what job tasks or activities bring happiness to your heart? Another way to think about this is to ask yourself, “What gets me excited to get out of bed in the morning?” Speaker and author Sam Davidson refers to this as the “sweet spot,” meaning we should find what brings us joy and spend time developing those skills. Occasionally I come across people who are so excited about their career because they love what they do. I find it inspiring. “If you can’t figure out your purpose, figure out your passion. For your passion will lead you right into your purpose,” said Bishop T.D. Jakes. Therefore, I challenge you to first find your joy and then seek it wholeheartedly.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRANDA CLARK

Everyone has a different passion; what’s yours?

What are your values? According to Development Crossroads (a career blog website), core values are the interests and qualities that you have always found yourself drawn to. Therefore, we must know ourselves well in order to know which direction to go with our lives. While

talking with Director of Career Services Suzanne Krupica I learned that finding a job that aligns with your values is key to having job satisfaction. People must decide what their values are and seek a career that satisfies them. I highly recommend that juniors and seniors take Krupica’s Career and Entry Seminar class. During one class we did a values exercise with cards that we had to arrange in

different piles according to the importance of the word on each card. This exercise challenged students to think about things they might have not otherwise considered significant.

Ask yourself what you find rewarding. During the spring 2013 semester I had the opportunity to study abroad in Wales, which led me to many self-discoveries. I interned at Minority Ethnic Women’s Network, a non-profit organization that helps women of all ages. One day while riding the bus back to my home I realized the internship provided me with fulfillment because it was intrinsically rewarding. I found fulfillment because I was able to mentor and encourage young girls.

Try a variety of things. When I first arrived at Blackburn, I wasn’t completely sure what I wanted to do with my life. Part of the reason for this was because of my lack of experience. However, throughout my time here I have worked many different jobs and internships which have allowed me to discover things I do and do not enjoy.

## No More Sports ... Now What?

By Jake DeRousse

In today's world it is generally assumed that America's youth will play sports. Be that t-ball or YMCA basketball, most have at least some experience in the realm of sports. Some people then find either that they have a skill for athletics and/or truly enjoy them and continue to play through college. Sixteen to twenty years are dedicated to playing one or more sports, with practices, games and other types of training in the offseason dominating the athlete's life. Then comes the ultimate tragedy. Senior year comes and goes and the athlete is suddenly a "normal person." No more eating anything without ramifications, no more thirty hours per week time commitment — and thus hours upon hours of free time — and more importantly no more putting off the real world.

The first point is the simplest and easiest to explain. While in season, athletes burn

much more than the 2000 calorie 'guideline.' Because of this many athletes eat whatever they want whenever they want and do not have to worry about gaining weight. Once the physical activity stops, however, all those extra calories are not burned off and instead are turned into fat.

The only benefit from ending one's athletic career is assumed to be the added time that comes with no longer playing. This is deceptive, however, as many former athletes get bored with all of this new time and do not know what to do with it. Others get the urge to be physically fit and just end up filling the time with different types of workouts. Senior volleyball player Amanda Miller said, "I plan on running and weight lifting to stay in shape. I enjoy the physical challenge ... I imagine I'll spend most of my free time trying to remain active. Sports gave a respect for my body and

I want to take care of it."

It is the dream for most young sports enthusiasts to play professional sports. In the dreams of my earlier years I switched between being the future shortstop for the St. Louis Cardinals and the future point guard for the Chicago Bulls. Eventually the realization sinks in that a professional sports career will not occur, but playing through college allows athletes to stall the inevitable. The second the final game is done, however, the dream is over. Athletes now have to face the real-world reality of the need to get a practical job.

The final seconds in a college athlete's career can be one of the more difficult times in his/her life. In the grand scheme of life it may not seem like a big deal, but transitioning to a non-athlete life does present challenges.

## Unfortunate Mascots

By Jake DeRousse



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX IVIC

Not everyone can have a mascot quite as cool as Barney the Beaver.

As anyone who has ever attended a female comedian's performance on campus knows, having a beaver as a mascot is considered a joke. Even though there are 11 other colleges using the beaver nickname, it is still considered "unique." In fact, there are many colleges that truly have unique nicknames not used by any of their rival colleges. Just because a nickname is unique does not really make it creative, though. There are multiple colleges that simply combine various common names with their location—such as the Loras College Duhawks — which combines the common mascot 'hawk' with their location of Dubuque — or name themselves after their founder — such as the

Williams College Ephs. That would be like Blackburn being the Carlincats or Fightin' Gideons. While those names may sound cool, they are not creative whatsoever. A good, unique nickname should be relevant to the school but still be creative. Arguably the two best such nicknames are the Chanticleers of Coastal Carolina University and the Keelhaulers of the California Maritime Academy.

Coastal Carolina is perhaps the most relevant sports program out of the three mentioned; the baseball team constantly qualifies for the postseason — receiving regional #1 seeds four times since 2005 — and the basketball team participated in the 2014 NCAA tournament.

In the 1960s Coastal Carolina was an extension of the University of South Carolina and decision-makers wanted to have a nickname that was somewhat related to USC's Gamecocks. They chose a Chanticleer, which is based off of the fable "The Nun's Priest's Tale" from Geoffrey Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales." This distinction quite possibly makes the mascot the only one in college named after literature that most high school students are required to read.

When asked what a keelhauler is, most students answered with some form of, "I have no idea." According to Dictionary.com, keelhaul is a verb that means "to haul (an offender) under the bottom of a ship and up on the other side as a punishment." Keelhauling was used primarily by the Dutch Navy for punishment from 1560-1853. While a form of punishment that often results in loss of limbs or even death may not be the ideal representation of a college, the student body did not seem to care when it chose the name in 1974.

While the beaver may not be as interesting or unique of a mascot as it seems, the fact that it represents the hard-working mindset of a Blackburn student makes it a fit with the school. Barring a change to a revolutionary mascot such as the Ewok, Blackburn should have a solid nickname for years to come.

## Alex Miller

By Devon Taylor



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Alex Miller's headshot for the 2013-2014 soccer season.

Senior sports management major Alex Miller is a prime example of just how deep a sport digs into a person. He's been playing soccer since he was just four years old when his parents signed him up for in a recreational league in St. Charles, Mo., where he is from. His older sister and younger brother play soccer and his father before him played football. Sports have been an influential part of his life almost since day one and they continuously bring him closer to his siblings.

A sport isn't just a sport. There is more to baseball than swinging a bat, there is more to football than colliding into each other repeatedly and there is more to soccer than kicking a ball. If you look through an athlete's duffel bag, underneath the cleats and dirty socks, you will find hard work, determination, fearlessness and so much more. If you look underneath the dirt, sweat and sometimes even tears, you'll see a family of all ages united on the field or court. "Soccer is a sport where your teammates become your family, especially after you're around them 24/7 for years," he said.

Soccer is a physically demanding sport but it is not hard to learn. "Most of learning the game is simply practice and watching pro games," Miller said. Miller practices nearly every afternoon and runs nearly every night. During the summer of 2013 he even played in an indoor league. During offseasons (times when the team isn't

actively playing) Miller plays futsal (a condensed version of soccer with five to a team and a smaller ball) to keep up with his foot work and weightlifts. "It's especially important to weight lift on the offseasons," he stressed.

Soccer is so much more than a sport. "I like soccer because of the combination of teamwork, individual skill, creativity and health benefits. It's easy to pick up, teaches leadership, work ethic and sportsmanship," he said. Miller has been playing nearly his whole life and wishes to continue the trend, even if it means just an indoor league with some friends. He has applied with the Chicago Fire and St. Louis Ambush to hopefully continue his career involving soccer beyond Blackburn.

Miller was only able to referee in the fundraising soccer match that attempted to break the world record for longest match on April 11-13, 2014 due to a knee reconstruction surgery in December. The surgery was for a torn ACL from the first game of the 2013-2014 Blackburn soccer season. But according to him, "the way the guys played and what they played for made me really proud to be a part of the program." This game raised over \$40,000 and besides changing the players' lives will help to change other people's lives as well. This puts soccer (and sports in general) in the lead for one of the most impactful activities anybody can participate in.



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