

THE BURNIAN

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A NEW SEMESTER MEANS
NEW
BEGINNINGS.
IT MAY STILL BE
COLD OUTSIDE,
BUT WE STILL CALL IT
SPRING
SEMESTER.

JOHN COMERFORD

Read "Letter from the
President" on Pg 10



PHOTO BY JORDYN SMITH

Where Do We Go from Here?

By Bryan Bethel

A convocation was held in Bothwell Auditorium last month in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. All students, faculty, staff and community members were invited and several gave presentations. Among them were poems read by President Comerford, musical performances by Macoupin Station and the Blackburn College Choir, original works by Hope Coston and the Rev. Erica Brown, a praise dance by Charnece and Lashay Frazier of House of Faith Ministries and an original speech from Director of Diversity and Inclusion Jarrod Gray, who also served as master of ceremonies.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day seemed to have a deeper

CONTINUED ON PG 7



PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD

THE TRUTH ABOUT RETENTION

By Jess Willard & Keragan White

You may have noticed as you walk into Blackburn's cafeteria for dinner that the lines are shorter, and there are less students serving food. Your dorm may have more vacant or empty rooms and you may be wondering why so many of your former colleagues are gone. On December 23, 2014, Dr. John Comerford, President of Blackburn College, sent out a letter to the faculty and staff addressing the low retention rate. While 23 students did graduate last semester (compared to 13 graduates the previous fall semester), there were 16 students that withdrew mid-semester (whereas last fall semester only 10 students

withdrew). This was not the only concern; 91 students were identified as being "at serious risk" (compared to only 46 students the previous year). According to the same letter, that would be fewer students than were enrolled in the previous spring semester and could result in a budget revenue shortfall of \$200,000 to \$300,000. There is still concern in regards to why so many students are dropping out or doing poorly in their classes. While 'Burnian reporters did attempt to contact several students that left, all chose not to respond for a variety of personal reasons.

Freshman Anna Marie

Heleine told The 'Burnian that she considered transferring last year for a couple different reasons. The college she considered transferring to was closer to home, which was convenient, and there was a slight issue with this college: the cost of being prorated. Heleine could understand getting prorated for having someone clean up a mess, but she was upset by the cost of a propped door (\$50.00), characterizing it as "ridiculous and expensive." Jenay Casper-Birdwell, a freshman business major, says she will be leaving the college soon. She said one of her reasons for leaving is due to family issues but she

CONTINUED ON PG 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

A Gem in the Gym

By Karlee Brimberry

If you are an avid user of social media, you may have seen all the hype for senior women's basketball player Briana Rae in the run for Gem of the Week during winter break.

Rae discovered her passion for basketball at a young age. She has been a part of basketball programs for eleven years. From averaging 21 points per game and 13.2 rebounds, Rae has not only drawn attention from SLIAC, but also from Division III's Gem of the Week.

Although Rae stated that there have been ups and downs to the season, such as getting double-teamed in numerous games and staying fit, she has not let any of those

CONTINUED ON PG 12

Dorm Sweet Dorm... Read "Things I Didn't Miss" by Courtney Egner on Pg 10

And Tweet us what you didn't (or did!) miss about living on campus



PHOTO BY MITCH ELLIOT

Gas Money

By Jordyn Smith

While most of us aren't going to complain about the recent plunge in gas prices, the sudden change has some Americans wondering what will happen next.

Fox News explains that oil prices have dropped because of changes in world supply and demand. New technology, such as hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, has allowed for "an astounding shale oil and gas revolution," said Fox. Confirmed by businessinsider.com, U.S. gasoline prices dropped dramatically along with oil prices when shale production surged nationally.

According to GasBuddy Senior Petroleum Analyst Gregg Laskoski, "What occurred in 2014 was nothing short of a paradigm shift in favor of North American energy producers and consumers, at the expense of OPEC and the Middle East."

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is based in Vienna, Austria. OPEC, which was founded by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, was later joined by nine other countries. The US is not a member. As companies compete with each other, lower prices in the US are putting additional pressure on OPEC.

According to Business Insider, President Barack Obama told the Detroit News that he would "strongly advise American consumers

to continue to think about how you save money at the pump because it is good for the environment, it's good for family pocketbooks and if you go back to old habits and suddenly gasoline is back at \$3.50, you are going to not be real happy."

According to junior biology major and president of the Sustainability Club at Blackburn Tim Hillis, "the gas prices should have been the same as ten years ago because the price for a drum of oil is the same as then." When asked if the decrease in gasoline prices is good or bad, Hillis said "Good for now. But eventually we will run out of oil. Then what?"

As for how long the lower gas costs will last, nobody can be certain. While GasBuddy, a website that tracks and predicts national data, expects that national gasoline prices in 2015 will average \$2.64, the same site also suggests that the federal government may decide to increase taxes on gasoline, which hasn't happened in almost 12 years.

Also according to GasBuddy, "the potential for springtime spikes is greatest in Illinois and the Great Lakes region." From February through April, refineries are expected to make the usual switch from "winter-blend" gasoline to the cleaner and thus more expensive "summer-blend."



PHOTO BY JORDYN SMITH

Gas prices are expected to rise in the next few months but will remain steady for the rest of the year.

New Year, New Laws



PHOTO BY JON GRIFFEL

In the state of Illinois, the speed limit has been changed to 70 mph for all interstates and toll ways.

By Jon Griffel

With every new year the state of Illinois unveils new laws. In 2013, Illinois made it illegal for employers to ask potential employees for their Facebook passwords. This is important to protect the privacy rights of all people, especially college students. In 2014, Illinois banned the use of cellphones without a hands free device while driving. Previously, the use of cellphones was only banned in construction zones.

Here are the top 12 new laws for Illinois in 2015 that you should know.

•Higher Speed Limits—The speed limit for all Illinois interstates and tollways will be increased to 70 mph.

•Traffic Stops—There is no longer a ticket quota system for police officers, meaning that they are not held accountable for a specific number of tickets per month. Also, if you get pulled over and ticketed, officers cannot hold your driver's license as bond, which means that you will retain your license throughout the ticket process.

•Pregnancy in the Workplace—Employers must provide pregnant women with reasonable accommodations such as breaks and limitations that might occur.

•Electronic Cigarettes—E-cigs must be kept behind store counters and come in childproof packages.

•Beer tax—The Illinois beer tax will now also apply to hard ciders.

•Boating—Citizens who boat operate under the influence will have their boats impounded.

•Medical Marijuana—Medical marijuana is now eligible to be prescribed to children as an oral medication for seizures.

•Crime Victims Privacy—There will be an enhanced system to notify victims when their offenders are released from police custody.

•New Illegal Drugs—Makes it illegal for minors to own Kratom plants, which create opiate like effects when consumed.

•Animal Permits—Pet owners are required to have

permits to own cold blooded animals that are labeled dangerous or venomous, such as venomous toads and snakes.

•Cyber Bullies—School administrators now have the ability to discipline students for committing acts of cyber bullying off of the school's campus.

•Hunting Bans—It is now illegal to own or hunt gray wolves, cougars and black bears.

Dr. Shelly Pepper, Professor of Criminal Justice at Blackburn weighed in on the new laws "It is noteworthy that the majority of the laws appear to have the purpose of protecting the public from themselves—the glaring exception to that is higher speed limits. Motor vehicle deaths continue to be among the leading causes of death in the United States and certainly increased speeds are a factor in a great deal of accidents." For more information and a complete list of the new laws visit www.illinois.gov.

Blackburn students to compete at the National Student Advertising Competition

By Lindsey Becker

Blackburn students from multiple disciplines will take part in the 2015 National Student Advertising Competition. The NSAC is an annual competition in which groups of students from colleges across the US develop a marketing plan for the event's sponsor and compete for a chance to have their plan implemented by the company. This year's sponsor is Pizza Hut.

The competition was brought to Blackburn by business professor Dr. Chris McCurley, who participated in the event at other colleges. McCurley, along with communications professor Natasha Casey, are leading business, communications and

graphic arts students on the project.

The students have worked on the campaign since last October and will compete at the district level in April in Indianapolis for a chance to advance to the semi-finals and eventually the finals at the American Advertising Federation's National Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Even if students aren't able to make the finals, it still gives them valuable real-life experience working in the field. "It's a comprehensive marketing plan. It's doing market research, understanding the data, how to reach the target market, how to develop new and creative



PHOTO BY ROADSIDEPICTURES

ideas—just getting an idea of how businesses really work," said McCurley.

All Blackburn students, faculty and staff can help the team by filling out a survey about their preferences at Pizza Hut restaurants at <https://www.surveymonkey>.

The Never Ending Aftershock

By Jon Griffel

On Jan. 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake decimated the island country of Haiti. The earthquake killed 220,000, injured another 300,000 and left more than a million people homeless, almost 25% of their population. This tragic event triggered a significant international response. More than \$13.5 billion was donated to relief efforts, with the United States responsible for almost \$9 billion. Today, many of these people (85,000 people according to PBS News) have been unable to rebuild after the destruction and are still living in tents and temporary housing. The economy was decimated along with the

buildings. Many businesses were destroyed and when the businesses crumbled, so did the jobs. More than 40% of Haitians remain unemployed and the majority of them live below the national poverty line.

The slow progress of the rebuild has led many people to question where the donated funds went and what is hindering growth. One of the first reasons that the rebuild has been so slow is that 10 months after the earthquake, a cholera outbreak struck the country killing 8,592 and sickening more than 700,000. The outbreak was attributed to the contamination of drinking water by overflowing septic

systems. Money is another issue that is impeding the rebuild, as much of the donations were not specified for any particular purpose. According to CNN, over 60% of the United States recovery funds were labeled as “not specified.”

The most recent roadblock Haiti has endured is the dissolution of their parliament earlier this year, which led to mass protests. Many citizens are calling for President Michael Martelly to resign. It appears as though he has no plans of doing so, as he recently appointed a new cabinet.



PHOTO BY SAFEWATER NEXUS

5 years after the earthquake, Haiti is still struggling to recover.

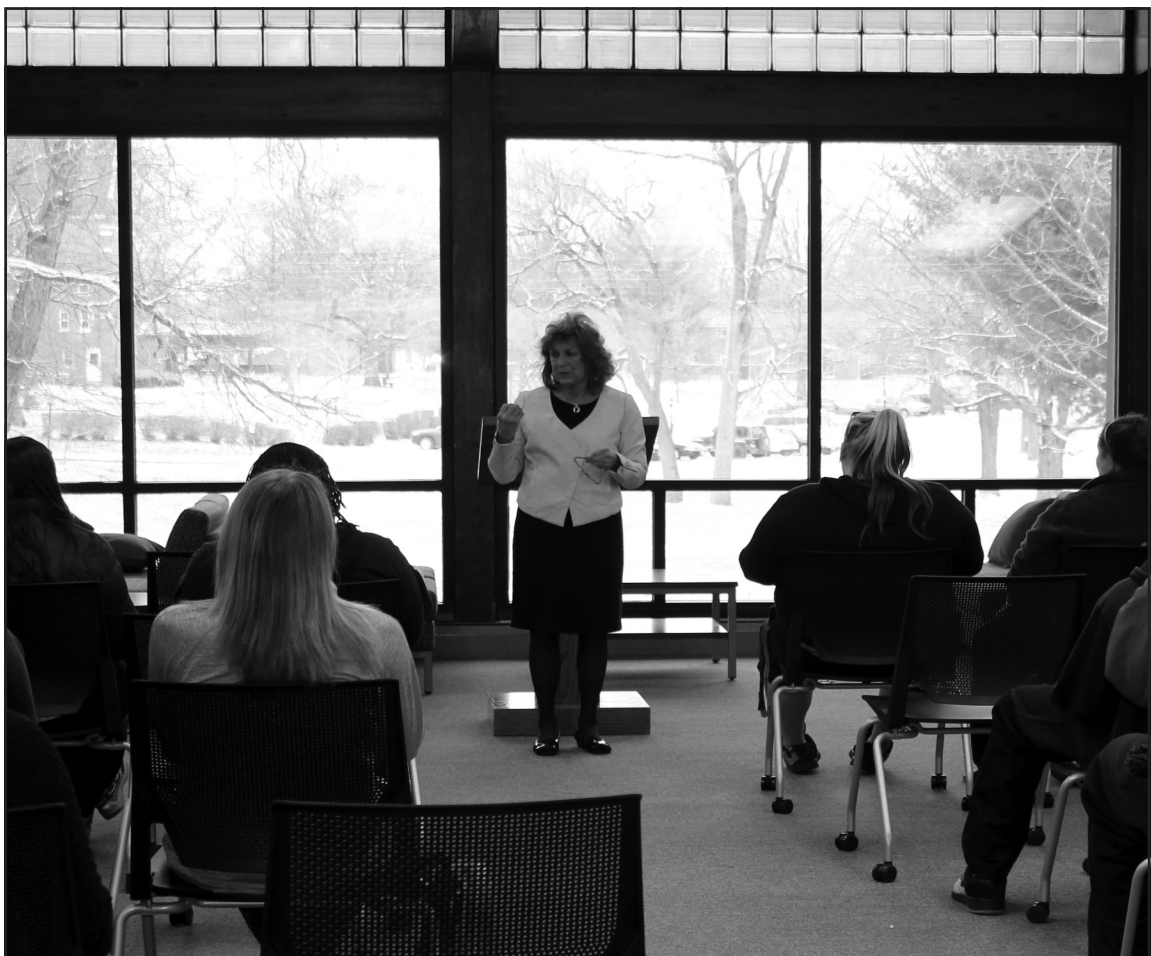


PHOTO BY REBECCA SPRINKEL

Carlinville Mayor Deanna Demuzio visited Blackburn kicking off the state and local government speaker series.

STUDENTS ASKED, SODEXO LISTENED

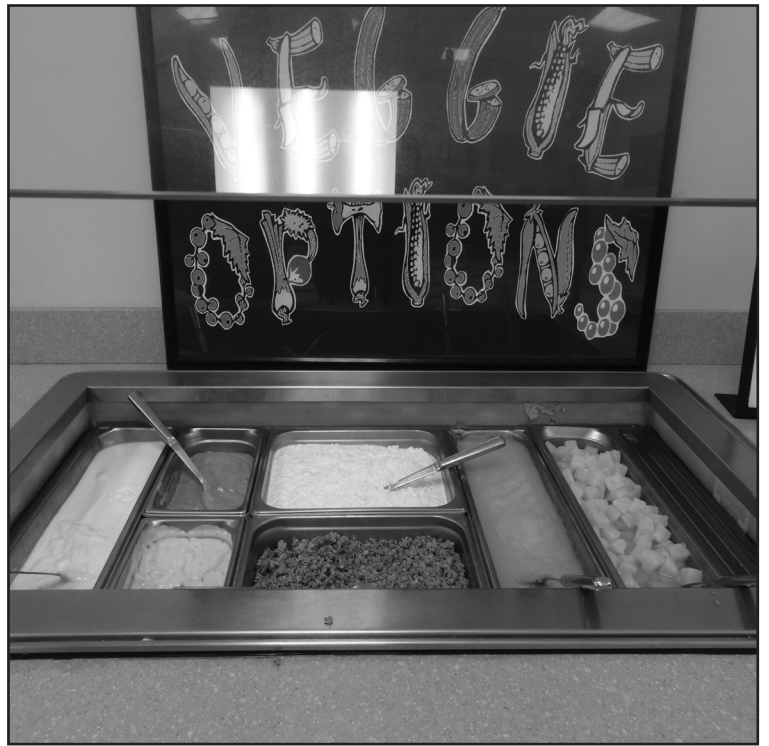


PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD

The cafeteria’s new breakfast options include a yogurt bar where the veggie options are usually placed.

By Jess Willard

Multiple changes have been made in Blackburn’s cafeteria, Ding, thanks to a listening session between Sodexo general manager, Tim Lucas and a group of students. One of these changes involved the introduction of two new meal plans, the block 200 and block 220 (both come with \$75.00 in flex dollars). A lot of students were upset that they ran out of meals so early last semester. Freshman Phillip Johnson said, “Last semester, I ran out of meals because the [block] 175 isn’t designed for people that stay on weekends and rarely eat out or do not have money for groceries. I am quite happy they now have a larger meal plan.”

Lucas suggests that if students are running low on meals towards the end of the semester that they purchase a commuter meal plan, which comes with thirty meals for a semester and \$20.00 in flex dollars. To purchase this plan, students must visit Chris Beck, Accounts Receivable Supervisor, in Ludlum 116 located in the Business Office.

Another change in Ding was the introduction of the continental breakfast. Instead of having breakfast from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m., it now runs from 7:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. to make it more convenient for late risers. The food itself has also changed.

Ding now offers fresh and canned fruit, granola, two to three yogurt options (one plain and one or two fruit flavored), three to four different cereals, the waffle station, toast, four different types of bagels (including whole wheat) and toppings for bagels and toast. The change in product allows breakfast to be open later, and there is less waste. According to Lucas, there are more students coming to breakfast than last semester. Now, forty students come to breakfast rather than twelve to twenty students each morning.

One final change made to Ding was the new to-go opinion, which is available for breakfast, lunch and dinner. You must go to the register in Ding and ask for a container. It is \$10.00 for the semester—you can choose to pay with the flex dollars offered with your meal plan. Then, you will be given a container to fill. When you are done with your container, you must bring it back to Ding to be cleaned for sanitary purposes. You will be given a wooden token to get a new container the next time you wish to have a to-go meal. It is \$10.00 to replace a broken or lost container. Lucas is excited about all the new changes and says his goal is to “communicate with the students.”

Blackburn and Compulsory Worship

By David Horn, Alum '65

Can you imagine compulsory Sunday chapel? Where you actually had to “sign in” as you entered Clegg for morning worship? That’s how it was as recently as the early ‘60s. Of course there were exceptions. You were excused if your work assignment prevented you from attending church. And since Catholic students could not worship in a protestant church, they were allowed to attend mass in town, provided they returned with a note signed by the priest. In fact, any student could worship at his or her favorite church in town, but a note from the pastor verifying attendance had to be turned in by Monday morning. There was just one exception to this rule. Kids from Christian Science homes were required to worship on campus. There was a small Christian Science church at 238 E. 1st North St. but students could not worship there because the college chaplain decided Christian Science was not Christian. It was a cult. Why?

Christian Science is a “made in America” religion founded by Mary Baker Eddy in 1866. It does not prohibit any form of healthcare, but (believe it or not) many members find prayer more effective than medicine. If illness lingers, members might hire a Christian Science “practitioner” to pray with them.

But then everything suddenly changed.

A coed from northern Illinois became seriously ill. Word spread that she was a Christian Scientist, and was not seeing a doctor. Instead a lady “practitioner” came down from Chicago and spent a week with her in her room. They remained secluded, taking all meals in her room. Day after day the campus waited.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Mary Baker Eddy founded the Christian Science church in 1866.

Finally the student emerged, fully recovered. The campus was buzzing, and that’s when the chaplain asked if he might re-evaluate a little book called “The Manual of The Mother Church” which defines the faith. After careful reappraisal, and in light of what happened, he decided Christian Science was Christian, and students could attend services in town on Sunday, provided they brought back a note from the “First Reader” who conducted the worship.

With this new freedom, about six students formed a “Christian Science Organization.” It was recognized as a campus club, and—irony of ironies—it was the only club on campus that held public services every Monday evening in Clegg Chapel.

Times have changed since then. The former Christian Science church in town disbanded for lack of members, and is now a private home, with a two-car garage added in the back yard. The organization dissolved after all the student of Christian Science graduated. But Principia is still a basketball rival, and the denomination has survived into the 21st century, one healing at a time.

Admissions Welcomes Chicago Based Rep, Em Jospeh

By Karlee Brimberry

If anything new was noticed last semester it was the large size of the freshmen class. However, class sizes are not the only thing expanding. Last semester there was an addition to the Blackburn Admissions office. Emmalyna (Em) Joseph, the new Chicago regional admissions counselor, has high hopes for new student enrollment this year.

Joseph has lived in Chicago for just under twenty years; which is where she will start her new career for Blackburn College. She received her Masters degree in Human Services and Counseling from DePaul University and brings many years of experience to Blackburn. Joseph has worked at a variety of universities and private schools, including Ripon College in Wisconsin where she held the Regional Director of Admissions position.

Joseph’s motivation to become a successful admissions counselor was in part due to not having the best experience with her own high school admissions counselor. She is very determined to bring in a large amount of students, and facilitating high retention rates. Joseph feels that students are drawn to Blackburn most often by the affordable access award (AAA) program. This program sets Blackburn apart from many other colleges because it gives low income



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

The new Chicago regional admissions counselor, Em Joseph, has a promising career with Blackburn College.

students in Illinois a chance for schooling that they would typically not be able to afford due to the rising cost of tuition. Another attraction that appeals to many Cook County students is the small town atmosphere of Carlinville. Many students from Chicago are not interested in going to school in another urban setting.

“The individualized attention given to students was one quality that attracted me to Blackburn,” said Joseph. “I enjoyed taking time to go through the process with students. Working with a larger pool, you’re almost forced to do the bare minimum and move on.” Another quality Joseph loves about Blackburn

is the family environment the students, faculty and staff provide.

Although Joseph is not physically on campus everyday, she does visit Carlinville at least once a month. According to Joseph the hardest part about this is that she does not get to participate in many campus activities, “Being in Chicago, I feel sometimes students may not realize I have a campus connection. They often times think I don’t visit campus and don’t participate in campus events, but I do.” According to the Director of Admissions, Alisha Kapp, Joseph is exactly what the Blackburn Admissions staff needed in order to grow their enrollment.

Bowlero Lanes Has Striking deals

By Rebecca Sprinkel

One of Carlinville’s well known attractions, Bowlero Lanes, is located west of Carlinville on Route 108. This bowling alley has 14 lanes available for bowling.

Every Tuesday night Bowlero Lanes offers a \$10.00 unlimited bowling from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.. This \$10.00

fee includes the cost of shoes which normally cost \$2.00 to rent. Blackburn environmental biology student, Ross Albert stated, “The bowling alley is a fun place to bowl for a great price. It is a good way to relax and have a little friendly competition.”

Every day except Sunday, one game is \$3.75. Sunday they have a deal: \$2.75 per game per person.

Bowlero Lanes also has many items on the menu in the restaurant to enjoy a dinner or snack. The kitchen hours are 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Friday and Saturday the kitchen is open for business 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.. Manager Donna Carty stated, “Some food items that are made in the kitchen are not on the menu. I make homemade every last bit of the pies and chicken and dumplings.”

In addition to bowling and food, Bowlero Lanes also



PHOTO BY REBECCA SPRINKEL

Bowlero Lanes has 14 lanes open for a fun night of bowling.

offers video games, a jukebox, gambling machines and dart boards for entertainment. Blackburn psychology student, Jeanette Kelly stated “The jukebox typically has a wide variety of music to be played. You can download particular songs if you cannot find them in the music library. At many of the CAB sponsored free bowling nights in the past, the music was always played by the student’s choice and it was really fun!”

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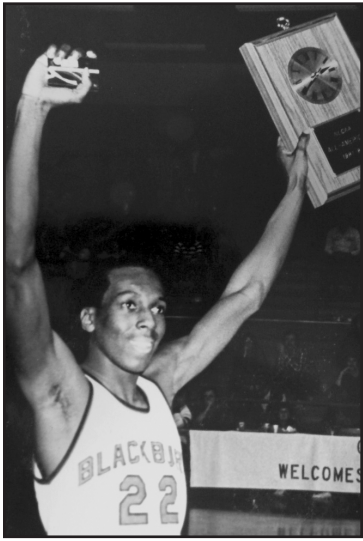
By Noah Daum

Alonzo Nelson, 1984 graduate of Blackburn College, was a two time National Little College Association All-American, and took the 1981-82 basketball team to the National Small College Athletic Association National Championship. But to Nelson, the experience helped him have much more than on-court success.

In 1979 after graduating from Lincoln High School in East St. Louis, he came to Blackburn College where he became close with then assistant coach Bob Staff. “He treated me like a son,” Nelson stated. “That made my stay at Blackburn more memorable.” Nelson recalls staying in the same dorm as some of his teammates including Ike Dodd, Mike Pauline and the Chatman brothers. “We were real, real close friends,” he said.

After graduating from Blackburn in 1984, Nelson got his start as a math teacher in his hometown of East St. Louis. He coached both girls and boys basketball until 2004 when he became athletic director. In 2009 Nelson earned his master’s degree from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. In 2014 he became the principal at James Williams Learning Center, an alternative high school in East St. Louis.

Success in the Nelson family doesn’t stop with Alonzo. Nelson’s wife is also a math teacher. Following



Alonzo Nelson Receiving NLCAA All-American Award: 1982

in his father’s footsteps, Alonzo Nelson Jr. is a math teacher in East St. Louis and in 2013, married Olympic gold medalist Dawn Harper. Nelson’s daughter Knetra is the head volleyball coach at Harris Stowe State University in St. Louis and Nelson’s youngest son Dominic is attending the University of Missouri and plays on the football team.

Nelson Sr. was a 2014 inductee into the Blackburn College Athletic Hall of Fame and at the ceremony he was reunited with his former Blackburn coach Bob Staff. “He took me in and made me feel like family,” Nelson added. “So that was just an honor to be reunited with him.” There are a lot of successful alumnus that graduated from Blackburn College, and if there is one word that could describe Alonzo Nelson Sr., it would be successful.

Animal Guy Coming to Blackburn

By Bryan Bethel

Students, faculty and animal lovers alike can expect to enjoy the upcoming event planned by the Campus Activities Board (CAB). Marty Essen, the multi-award-winning author of “Cool Animals, Hot Planet: Exploring the Seven Continents,” will be coming to Blackburn to give a presentation on his explorations. According to Essen’s website, his presentation titled ‘Around the World in 90 Minutes’ is described as “one part lecture, one part theater, one part slide show and one part comedy.”

Essen’s love for animals has taken him all around the globe. He has travelled over all seven continents to photograph and learn about the multitude of animals that live there. His photographs include a wide variety of animals from snakes and lizards, to hyenas and cape buffalo. Essen’s presentations have been critically acclaimed, earning him Campus Activity Magazine’s ‘Hot Speaker’ pick of 2011. Essen has also

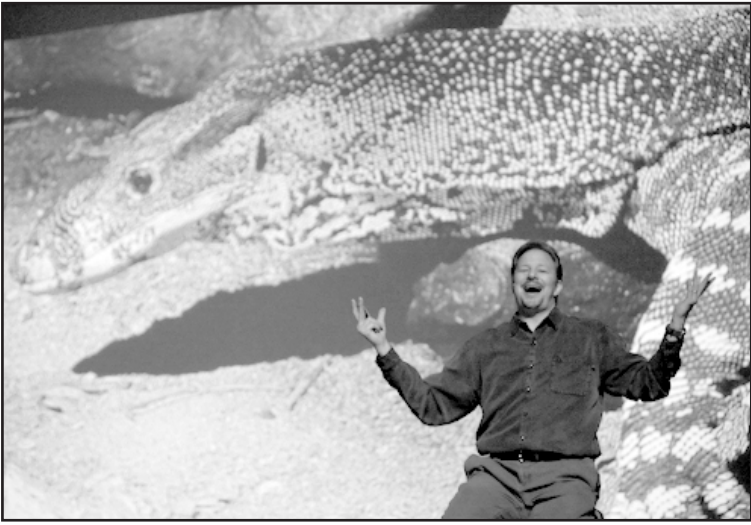


PHOTO BY MIKE ESSON

been number one booked college speaker for the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities for fifty total months. Essen says that his show typically appeals to science majors, but also appeals to anyone interested in travel, writing, photography, or storytelling. When asked about the upcoming event, Director of Campus Activities Emily Bahr said, “I’m excited to see how this event goes, it seems like it will appeal to a wide audience.”

The presentation will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12 and the location has yet to be determined. “The event is scheduled for a different time than CAB’s usual Friday and Saturday night programs,” said Bahr. “I’m curious to see how students will react to the different time.” Anyone wanting to learn more about Marty Essen and his love for animals can visit his website: www.coolcreatureshotplanet.com.

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What is the funniest pick up line you have ever heard, and what face would you use while saying it?

Amber Campbell
Freshman
Psychology Major



“How much does a polar bear weigh?
Enough to break the ice.”

Dr. John Comerford
Administration
President of Blackburn College



“Did it hurt? When you fell from
heaven?”

Mary Chamberlain
Senior
History Major



“Why is the sky so gray? Because all
the blue is in your eyes. My eyes are
brown.”

Taylor Critchfield
Senior
Accounting Major



“Does that dress have a zipper? Mind
if I try it out?”

PHOTOS BY JON GRIFFEL

A professor of many trades

By Jess Willard

Dr. Deborah Young may be known on the Blackburn campus as an adjunct business professor but there is a lot more to her than that title. She



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBORAH YOUNG
Adjunct Business Professor, Deborah Young, poses for a new semester at Blackburn College

began her journey to Blackburn College when she earned her Bachelor of Science in performing arts in the area of radio and television. She also earned a Master’s degree in education in the area of human

services management and her Ph. D. in management and administration in educational technology.

Young lived in San Diego for 18 years where she worked as a special projects researcher, analyst and technical writer for Navy Personnel Research and Development Center. Then she made the decision to go to Europe and lived there for six years. She traveled and visited more than twenty countries including Germany, France and Italy. When she finally returned to the USA, she came to Carlinville. She says it was a “tumultuous adjustment” coming to a smaller town after living in big cities. There are not as many things available here in town like there are in cities such as movie theaters or malls. However, she did admit that it has “been an interesting transition and journey coming back to a small town in the Midwest.” Young has now been in Carlinville for three and a half years and has grown to

love the area, town and people. She said, “Carlinville are the friendliest people.”

Young is also a member of the Carlinville Writers Guild and Shop Local First. Her company, Action Digital Video, videotapes weddings and school events, and she is the co-owner of Cherry Tree Treasures & Gifts on the Carlinville Square. She has been teaching economics and human resources classes as well as international business at Blackburn since 2013. “[I] am honored and thrilled to be sharing insights with students. Blackburn students are perfectly positioned to take on lead roles in their [future] professions,” she said. According to Young, Carlinville is the ideal environment for a college since there are not as many distractions, which makes it easier for students to focus on their studies. All in all, she says, “[I am] happy to be here at Blackburn and part of the lives of Blackburn students,

CHANGE OF IN THE ART D



Craig Newsom decorates his office with books and o

By Bryan Bethel

Starting this semester, students can expect to see changes in the art buildings with the appointment of a new Chair of the Art Department. After twelve years of managing

the Art Department, ceramics professor Bob Huber has decided to pass the torch on to his colleague Craig Newsom. Newsom, who acquired his MFA in Sculpture at the

CRIME

BLACKBURN COLLEGE BEAT

January 11, 2015
At 10:27pm, there was a car illegally parked in the grass near a resident’s hall. Handled by Campus Security.
January 11, 2015
At 12:19am, there was an underage drinking violation in a residence hall. Handled by Residence Life and Campus Security.
January 12, 2015
At 10:27pm, there was a car

accident in a school parking lot. Handled by Campus Security
January 13, 2015
At 7:00pm, there was an infraction involving moving parlor furniture in a resident’s hall to a bedroom. Handled by Residence Life.
January 13, 2015
At 7:50pm, there was a suspicion of students using illegal drugs in a residence hall. Handled by Campus Security

and Residence Life.
January 14, 2015
At 10:59pm, there was a false alarm in a residence hall and a fire incident was reported. Handled by Campus Security
January 15, 2015
At 12:01 am, there was a noise violation breaking quiet hours in a residence hall. Handled by Residence Life

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THE TRUTH A RETENT

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

also found herself under a lot of pressure at Blackburn. She explained that the workload is rather high (she is taking eighteen credit hours) and trying to make time for her tuition job is too hard. She went to say she disliked that the college was “putting stress on students on academic probation” by having her attend weekly meetings on top of her busy schedule.

Dr. Comerford offered more input on retention rates and pointed out that the letter distributed to the faculty and staff was a projection. “The official count won’t be out until a few weeks from now,” he said. He also said that the freshman-to-sophomore retention would be a more important number and will not be known until September. He did recognize that the projection looked worse than last year. “Our faculty, staff, and student leaders are doing a better job of reporting student concerns [according to the optimistic view],” he noted but also acknowledged,

“[The pessimistic view is] this [freshman] class included more students at risk.” He also stated that Blackburn did not change its admissions standards. “Every student on campus deserves to be here,” he said and admitted that the financial aid initiatives attracted students that were more “at risk.” He



The pressure of assignments is one reason for ver

COMMAND DEPARTMENT



PHOTO BY BRYAN BETHEL

original art.

University of Chicago, has been teaching at Blackburn for 8 years. He has worked with Huber in maintaining the Visual Arts Center and in teaching the art seminar classes.

ABOUT ION

also addressed the 91 students that were “at serious risk.” He noted, “Each is a different situation—some had financial problems, some had academic issues, some didn’t enjoy the Work Program, some had things going on in their lives that had nothing to do with Blackburn at all.”



PHOTO BY WORLD BANK PHOTO COLLECTION

on many incoming students do not stay y long.

While sitting comfortably in his new office surrounded by books and his own artwork, Newsom had this to say about his new position: “There are definitely more duties appointed to me now, but this does not change the fact that I will still be looking for lots and lots of work from students.” Another change that resident artists can look forward to is the renewal of the Renner ceramics building. Without being burdened by the extra work as Chair of the Art Department, Huber will now be focusing his attention on the upkeep and restoration of Renner, where his office is now located.

“It simply makes more sense for me to be located in Renner rather than the VAC,” said Huber. “If I am to maintain the ceramics building it just doesn’t seem logical for me to be cooped up in a completely different building.” Both professors seem to have a firm grasp on what is expected of them in the following semester and are eager to get to work and make lots of art.

Where Do We Go from Here?

CONTINUED FROM PG 1



PHOTO BY JORDYN SMITH

2014 recipient of the MLK Student Leadership Award Hope Coston shares an original work.

meaning on campus this year. Senior biology major Hope Coston, who was also the recipient of the first Martin Luther King Student Leadership Award last year, said, “It’s important because it serves as a reminder of the struggle for

justice that still exists today. Dr. King’s vision for what the world could be is still out there, applicable and within reach. It challenges us to see beyond the superficial garb that surrounds us—be it race, gender or political affiliation—and try

to find ways to move forward together. Recent events in the St. Louis area have touched us here at Blackburn. So, it’s a good time to reflect and renew.”

This year’s recipient of the Martin Luther King Student Leadership Award was junior psychology major Jesse Medina. He demonstrated the King-like qualities of service and dedication and had a “tireless and relentless passion to help others,” according to Gray. Medina won a \$100 gift card to the Blackburn Bookstore and was presented with a certificate. He will also be included on the MLK Student Leadership Wall in the Student Life office.



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Getting Back Into the Groove of College

By Jess Willard

For those who are new to a college workload or just want to know how to readjust to college life after a break, both psychology professor Dr. Kevin Karl and senior biology major Jacob Maag have some words of wisdom.

Studying for classes can be difficult after approximately four weeks of a break, but Karl has a suggestion: the SQ4R method which he teaches about in his PY 101 class. SQ4R stands for survey, question, read, recite, reflect and review. Step one is survey or skim the material, which can be either notes, worksheets or the book. This allows you to gather points and create a frame of reference to begin your studying process. Then you begin the questioning process. Give yourself questions to answer on topics you are unsure about before you continue on to the next step, which is reading through the material. Read for detail and to answer the questions you had previously. The fourth step is to recite the information. This can be done by repeating it in your head or typing it out. Proceed to reflect on the information by

using critical thinking skills. Ask yourself what does this content mean to you and how does it apply to your life? These questions give meaning to the information and cue your memory. Finally, review the information. This should take place a few days before an exam, a test or a quiz, so you have the opportunity to engrain the information into your mind.

Karl said, “It gives you more experience with the material allowing you to learn [it] better.” This six step process should give you a good outline for how to study and gives the information you are learning a purposeful meaning. Procrastination may also hinder you when it comes to getting back into the groove of college studies. Karl advises students to come up with a plan that is “kind of like a new year’s resolution.” Having goals will give you the motivation needed to study. He suggests that you “keep track of assignments and schedule time to do [them].”

Jacob Maag has more suggestions for scheduling when to do your assignments—prioritizing will help the most.

He stated, “Make sure what needs to be done gets done and then, see where [your] free time is.” Schedule when you have classes and when homework is due. Then, you can add clubs and other activities to build your

resume. He also recommends that you build relationships with professors. They can help you fully understand the requirements and structure of the class.



PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD

Freshman Dallas Newberry writes an essay at her desk.

Watch Out for Catfish and the Bottlemen



PHOTO BY COURTNEY EGNER

A Catfish and the Bottlemen vinyl plays on a turntable.

By Courtney Egner

One of the newest bands to hit the indie rock scene in the past few months, Catfish and the Bottlemen has taken the scene by storm with their explosive sound. Comprised of lead vocalist Van McCann, lead guitarist Johnny “Bondy” Bond, bassist Benji Blakeway and drummer Bob Hall, the Bottlemen hail from Llandudno, Wales.

Although their debut album was released in the United Kingdom in September 2014, it was just released in the United States on Jan. 6. The following night they made their late night debut performing “Kathleen” on “The Late Show with David Letterman,” which was an impressive performance. This month the Bottlemen will be kicking off their first United States tour which already has sold out dates. They will be coming through St. Louis on Feb. 23 performing at the Firebird. If you want to see one of the best live performances in recent memory and are in need of going to a good show, consider buying a ticket and checking them out. Some of the best shows are the ones you go into knowing nothing

about the band.

So why should you listen to Catfish and the Bottlemen? Well if their intriguing name isn’t enough to draw you in, then their indie alternative sound with explosive guitar riffs certainly will. “The Balcony” is a nearly flawless record boasting their successful single “Kathleen” and then slowing it down with the acoustic “Hourglass.” Every song is better than the last. But the hidden gem on the album is the catchy and relatable song “Business.” Catfish and the Bottlemen’s sound is something new yet familiar, and Blackburn Radio’s Donovan Williams agrees. “I recently came across Catfish and the Bottlemen while scrolling through YouTube. I started to listen to their songs because their sound was different from what usual rock bands play and they had a sophisticated sound that reeled me in from the very beginning of each song. I’m officially hooked and can’t stop listening to their music.”

If you’re looking for a new alternative band to add to your iTunes library then check out Catfish and the Bottlemen.

POLITICAL CONTROVERSY BENEFITS THE INTERVIEW?

By Bryan Bethel

Initially scheduled for release on Christmas Day, “The Interview” has been a film riddled with controversy from the very beginning. The movie stars James Franco as the clueless celebrity talk show host kept in check by his long-time friend, played by Seth Rogen. Much of the movie’s controversy lies in depicting the assassination of Kim Jong-un, the Supreme Leader of North Korea. Even before the movie came out in theaters, an unknown group of hackers threatened violence if Sony Entertainment continued work on the movie. Rumors spread that the North Korean government threatened to fire nuclear missiles at the United States if the movie was released as planned. It has been speculated that North Korean hackers were behind these threats as well as causing the temporary blackout at Sony’s studios. With all of this controversy has come an increased awareness of “The Interview,” with thousands of people scrambling to watch the film on YouTube, Hulu and other video streaming sites. “The general population



PHOTO BY OFFICIAL BLACKBERRY IMAGES

One of the stars of “The Interview,” Seth Rogen, walks the red carpet.

loves controversy, especially when it’s real,” said Business professor Dr. Christina McCurley. “We crave drama and try to get involved with it any way we can.”

The political hype has definitely drawn more interest towards the movie; however, some conspiracy theorists believe this controversy may have been fabricated in order

to gain the film more attention. The idea that Sony had some sort of scheme to gain more interest for their film seems plausible, especially since critics were not especially impressed with the movie. English and Communications professor Dr. Mark Benedetti seemed to think otherwise: “I tend to think that this wasn’t some master plan all along as some people have suggested, partly because I doubt this unusual method of release has made more money than Sony’s initial projections.” With only a few hundred independent theaters willing to play the movie after the alleged threats, it would have been a miracle if Sony would have made any money at all. In fact, according to the Hollywood Reporter, Sony may have lost upwards of \$30 million dollars in total from the scandal. Sony hopes to make up for some of that loss by releasing “The Interview” on Blu Ray and DVD this month. It remains to be seen if these sales will be substantial, especially since so many people have already streamed or downloaded the movie from the internet.

December 13, 1989



PHOTO BY ALLISON BRUSS

Swift commands the stage on tour.

By Jordyn Smith

For the past nine years, Taylor Swift has changed the faces of country and pop music as well as the lives of millions of fans across the world. The twenty-five year old tells stories that are intensely personal and as a result has been subjected to much criticism, but even more support. Seven-time

Grammy winner, the artist has accumulated over 50 million followers on Twitter with the help of her relatable songs and down-to-earth personality. However, Swift recently made a controversial switch from country music to pop with the release of her newest album “1989.”

“For the last few years, I’ve woken up every day not wanting, but needing to write a new style of music,” wrote Swift on her website. “I needed to change the way I told my stories and the way they sounded. I listened to a lot of music from the decade I was born and I listened to my intuition that it was a good thing to follow this gut feeling.”

The album was the first of the year to certify as platinum despite its release at the end of October, according to The Huffington Post. This is a big deal, especially since streaming companies such as Spotify and Pandora have rendered albums obsolete. “1989” is the first album to sell 4 million copies in 12 weeks since Usher’s album “Confessions” in 2004.

Swift’s new approach

doesn’t seem to negatively affect her fans. In fact, she is becoming increasingly popular for targeting her critics directly with her hit single “Shake It Off.” Swift said, “I wrote about an important lesson I learned recently...That people can say whatever they want about me, but they can’t make me lose my mind. I’ve learned how to shake things off.”

Senior elementary education major Allison Bruss said, “Honestly, I think the switch was good. Although she appeals to young fans she is still able to keep the attention of older fans as well. You know, those fans who have grown up with her.” Bruss, who has seen Swift in concert, has been a fan ever since Swift came out with her debut studio album in 2006. “Not only is Taylor Swift close to my age, I feel as if her music can sometimes describe what’s going on in my life. Call me crazy, which most people think Taylor Swift is crazy. But if you listen, deep down her songs have much more meaning than so-and-so broke up with me.”

Swift will kick off her “1989” World Tour in Japan in May.

Protests

By Lindsey Becker



PHOTO BY LINDSEY BECKER

Protestors rally outside of a prison.

If you've kept up with events in Ferguson, Missouri, you're probably aware of the protests occurring across the nation.

Unrest has been fueled by the non-indictments of Officer Darren Wilson, shooter of 18-year old Michael Brown, and Officer Daniel Pantaleo, who put New York man Eric Garner in a chokehold resulting in his death. Thousands took to the streets to protest police brutality and racial profiling, including myself.

As New York was overrun with an estimated 60,000 protestors at the Millions March (a mass demonstration demanding justice following the Garner decision), I was part of a smaller protest in St. Louis, Missouri. Meeting at Hickey Park, a group of about 100-200 protestors marched to a St. Louis medium security prison in objection to police brutality, mass incarceration and the war on drugs.

According to the International Center for Prison Studies at King's College London, the United States incarcerates more people than any other nation in the world—around 2.3 million, and Huffington Post says that over 50% of those inmates are drug offenders.

In addition to this, most of them are people of color, continuing the trend of racial profiling. A 2011 survey conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration shows that whites are more likely to use cocaine,

marijuana, hallucinogens and methamphetamine—though a 2009 study from Human Rights Watch affirms that blacks are three times as likely to be convicted for drug offenses

"The war on drugs is lost," says criminal justice professor David Camp. "If we would treat drug problems rather than penalize them, it would be much more successful and cost a whole lot less."

Led by an advocate group called Systematic Freedom, our protest called for exactly that. As we neared the prison and approached the barbed wire fence, I heard what I thought was an echo. It was jarring when I realized inmates were chanting back to us. As we yelled, "No justice," they replied with "No peace."

A man who was once incarcerated in the prison described to us, close to tears, the conditions there. According to him, inmates were starved and teased with food, there was a complete disregard for health and safety, no treatment of illnesses and many inmates piled into single cells. The prisoners themselves shouted out, "We're getting sick in here, we get treated like shit."

Unfortunately, this isn't the first time such claims have been made. In 2009, the American Civil Liberties Union of eastern Missouri conducted an investigation which revealed instances of sexual and physical assaults and cover-ups of such events. In 2012, 30 inmates claimed that guards forced prisoners to fight gladiator style for their amusement.

With a megaphone, an address was shouted to prisoners so they could write to the outside about conditions. As we left the prison, they called out, "Thank you, we love you." If we accomplished something, it was bringing attention to these issues and giving victims a voice.

The problems with our justice system run deep. Do citizens deserve to be subjected to racial profiling and locked up in such conditions, even if their crime was a non-violent one? Offenders should not be forced to forfeit their dignity and safety for these offences, and a system that unfairly targets minorities is a broken one.

If you or someone you know was a victim of the St. Louis prison system, reach out to Systematic Freedom at systematicfreedom@gmail.com.

Be Who You ARE



Photo by Bret Simmons

Logan LePlante talks about happiness at the TEDx Talks at the University of Nevada

By Calean Gruening

In January 2013, 13-year-old Logan LaPlante was invited to speak about happiness at TEDx Talks. His message was simple: "For me, when I grow up I want to continue to be happy, like I am now." LaPlante stated that a large factor in his sustained happiness is learning what it is to be happy and healthy. One of his major concerns, however, is that learning to be happy and healthy is separate from what is being taught in formal education, where learning to be happy is, according to LaPlante, "not a priority."

LaPlante's claims certainly beg the question: how do we learn to be happy and healthy throughout our academic experience? If you're like me, you learn through trial-and-error. I know many people learn to be happy through their family and peers. Unfortunately, some people either don't regularly experience happiness and/

or can't sustain it. Blackburn students may draw from these three areas or more but the question still remains for many: how the hell do we stay happy and sane? Let's see what happy people have in common.

Martin Seligman, former President of the American Psychological Association, created Positive Psychology to address these very issues. In August 2005, Seligman defined Positive Psychology in the article "Positive Psychology Progress" as, "The study of positive emotion, positive character and positive institutions." Seligman summarizes that the research of positive psychologists has allowed us to understand what makes people happy and under what circumstances humans can sustain happiness. Seligman endorses a book from 2004, "Character Strengths and Virtues: A Handbook and Classification" (CSV), saying,

"The CSV describes and classifies strengths and virtues that enable human thriving." According to Seligman, "The most commonly endorsed character strengths, in 40 countries are kindness, fairness, authenticity, gratitude and open-mindedness."

Taylor Hess, a senior Psychology major, is very familiar with Seligman's publications due to her senior seminar research. Answering the question "What can students do to access their character strengths," Hess replied, "They need to know their strengths to begin with, such as what am I good at or what do I like to do, or where do I see myself succeeding." After identifying some of her own character strengths, Hess identified "a love of learning" as her favorite. She explained, "That is why I'm pursuing a graduate degree. Without learning I'd feel incomplete." When asked how to make happiness a priority on campus, Hess replied, "You have to do it for yourself. You have to want a fulfilling life. When people utilize their strengths, they are typically drawn towards people and things that will make them happy." If you'd like to find some of your character strengths, Hess says you can visit authentichappiness.sas.upenn.edu and complete the "VIA Survey of Character Strengths." Hess and I both agree that if you're able to learn more about your strengths and develop an identity, you will have a major advantage towards learning how to lead a satisfying life.



PHOTO BY LINDSEY BECKER

Protesters carrying cardboard signs as they march to St. Louis medium security prison.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

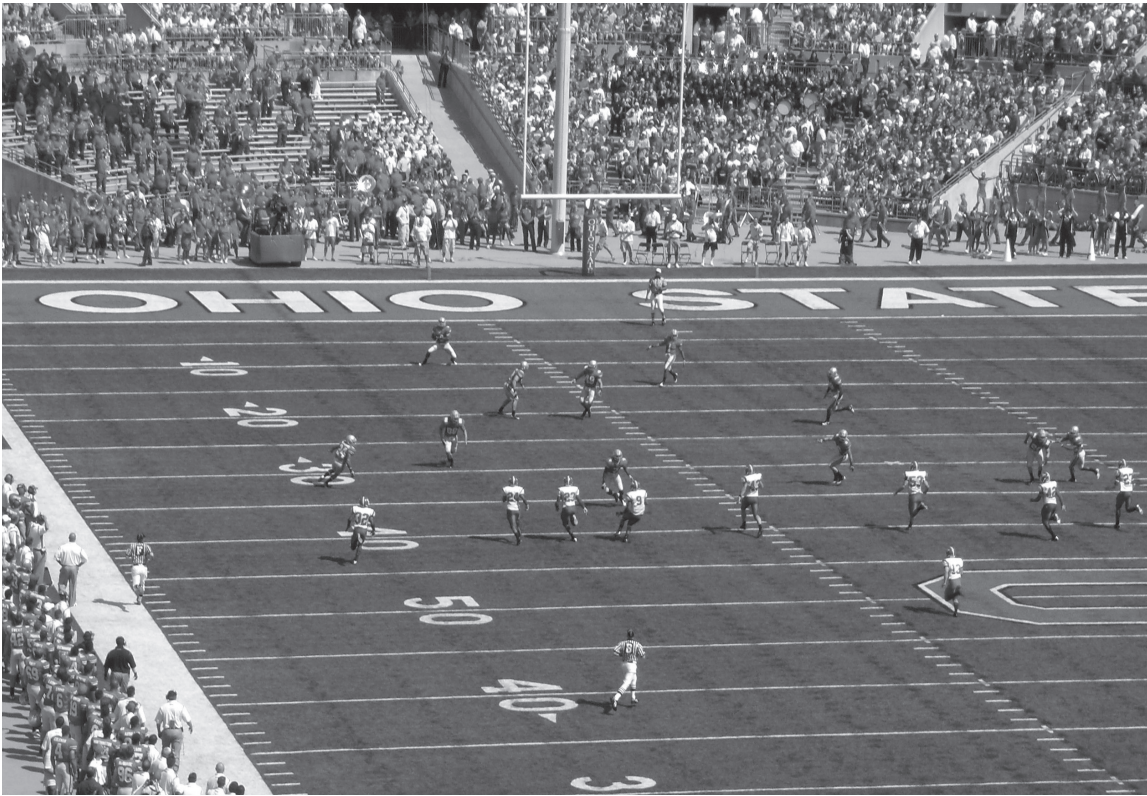


PHOTO BY ICAWISE

“Ohio State’s bid was under much speculation as Ohio State came from a subpar Big 10 conference and entered the playoffs on their third string quarterback.”

By Jon Griffel

The much anticipated college football playoff bracket has concluded, and it didn’t leave fans disappointed. While none of the underdog teams made the playoffs, there still was controversy regarding the teams that made the bracket. While Alabama and Oregon were dominant 1 loss teams, and Florida State was the only undefeated team, Ohio State’s bid was under much speculation as Ohio State came from a subpar Big 10 conference and entered the playoffs on their third string quarterback. In the preseason, Ohio State lost star quarterback Braxton Miller to a season ending shoulder injury. Freshman J.T. Barret led the team to the Big 10 championship only to

sustain an ankle injury against Michigan. Junior quarterback Cardale Jones then led the team to wins against Wisconsin, Alabama, and Oregon. According to ESPN, the championship game evoked an 18.9 rating, becoming the highest rated program in the stations history. This was a full 21% higher than the 2011 national championship game, the previous record holder. Among the millions of viewers were many Blackburn students and teachers. Senior accounting major and Oregon Ducks fan Jacob Conder said, “I believe that the playoff system allowed for more teams that always got shorted from the past system to be competitive and be in the discussion of best team in the country. I think

they should still make it an 8 team bracket which would hype up the experience even more. Sucks that my Ducks lost though!” Senior education major Kate Alderman said, “I think it’s better than the poll system there was before. Teams from more conferences received more opportunities than before.” The Alabama fan added, “Although I’d like to see more teams than just four, it’s really not possible because college football season would be so much longer, which would have a major effect on the players. Because of that, I think I would keep the playoffs how they currently are.” Looks like the playoff experiment was a huge success for college football.

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Blackburn Baseball Welcomes Tylor Klipfel

By Karlee Brimberry


Blackburn College welcomes California native Tylor Klipfel to the baseball team. A recent transfer student from the Los Angeles area, Klipfel decided to bear the climate difference for his one true passion—baseball. A junior business management major, Klipfel joins the baseball team with high hopes for a great season. Klipfel, who has played baseball since the young age of three, will be playing center field for the Beavers this coming spring. Before playing for the Beavers, he received many Defensive Player of the Year awards in his baseball career. Although Klipfel has been solely dedicated to center field, he says his favorite thing about baseball is hitting. Due to the promising fall baseball season, Klipfel has high expectations for his team. A goal he has set for himself and his teammates is to win the SLIAC Conference Tournament. Klipfel says his personal goal is to contribute to the team as much as he can. This season the Beavers have many new faces on the team and are ready for a spring season that

will be as great as the one in the fall. Klipfel was recruited by Coach Mike Neal for his defensive skills as well as his agility and quickness. After many years of experience Neal feels that in order for the Beavers to become successful this season teammates should hold each other accountable on the field. “Everyday everyone should hold themselves to a certain standard,” he said. “If you see one of your teammates not doing what they should be doing, you should hold them accountable. Help them fix what they are doing in order to better themselves and the team.” One of Klipfel’s favorite quotes comes from Will Smith who stated, “Why be realistic? Being realistic is the most common path to mediocrity.” Klipfel feels it is important to always stay positive and set big goals. He feels the Beavers can win the SLIAC conference tournament and would love for the team to make it to the Division III World Series. The men’s baseball team is ready to bring on a great season in spring 2015.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR


Tylor Klipfel plays center field during this year’s baseball season at Blackburn.



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A Gem in the Gym

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

obstacles stop her. Rae feels it is important to stay focused and to have team chemistry. She said her motivation for all of her hard work derives from her teammates and coach.

You have to be nominated in order to receive Division III's Gem of the Week. Although Rae is unsure who nominated her for this honor, she is very grateful and appreciative of not only that, but also all the support Blackburn College has shown by sending e-mails

urging students to vote. Overall Rae received 49.3 percent of the votes going up against 12 other competitors, ultimately winning the title Gem of the Week. Rae's advice for any athlete wishing to succeed is to "stay focused and be determined. When things get tough, look at the person beside you and know they are going through the same thing. You can go through any obstacle with teammates by your side."

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



PHOTO BY TENNESSEE JOURNALIST

The Kentucky Wildcats have been the number one choice to win for the NCAA Championship so far, but that could change as the season wears on.

By Jon Griffel

The NCAA Division I basketball season has been a roller coaster ride. Many of the top teams have experienced bumps along the way, opening spots up in the top five for new teams. As conference play begins, many teams have seen their championship hopes dashed, as they have failed to live up to preseason hype. The biggest busts so far are Connecticut, Syracuse, Michigan and Florida. All of these teams entered the season in the top 25 and have since fallen flat.

At the season's midpoint, my top five rankings have changed. In the preseason my top five teams were Wisconsin, Kentucky, Duke, Arizona and Kansas. The updated rankings are below.

1. Kentucky Wildcats— Kentucky played their first 12

college basketball games like the best team to ever take the court. They were beating teams by at least 20 points every game, including games against ranked opponents. However, as conference play has opened, the team has looked very vulnerable. Kentucky is still the favorite to win the NCAA championship, but they no longer look like a team that can go undefeated.

2. Virginia Cavaliers— Virginia has been the most dominant defensive team in basketball this year. When they run Coach Tony Bennett's defense correctly, there are very few teams who can score on them. The main story this year has been their offense. With a heavy emphasis on passing and sharing the basketball, they have looked like the favorites to win their

conference.

3. Villanova Wildcats— Much like Virginia, Villanova has looked like a great overall team. They don't dominate the opponent with their offensive or defensive efforts, but rather beat them with a team game.

4. Duke Blue Devils— Like Kentucky, Duke is very reliant on freshman scoring, and they have gotten most of it from Jahlil Okafor. Okafor has been a dominant post presence and should anchor this team on a Final Four run.

5. Gonzaga Bulldogs— Gonzaga has continued their excellence as a mid major program. They have dominated lesser opponents and their only loss was on the road to a very good Arizona team. Look for this team to make some noise in the NCAA tournament.

Upcoming Sports Events

Blackburn College Women's Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat, Feb. 14	Webster (Away)	1:00 p.m.
Wed, Feb. 18	Eureka (Home)	6:00 p.m.

Blackburn College Men's Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat, Feb. 14	Webster (Away)	3:00 p.m.
Wed, Feb. 18	Eureka (Home)	8:00 p.m.

Home Game Awareness

By Keragan White

Blackburn College has five men's and six women's athletic teams. Despite playing at home many times throughout the season, student attendance at home games is miniscule. This results in a lack of school spirit from the students attending Blackburn. A key reason for low attendance at home games is a general lack of awareness of when they are scheduled.

Many Blackburn students only find out about a home game the day of and therefore already have plans. Is this Blackburn's fault or the students'? The answer is both. Many students do not have the motivation to look for when sporting events are going to be held, or they are unaware that the school website holds the athletic event calendar. Blackburn, on the other hand, does not want to reiterate the information that has already

been placed on the website. All students have to do is "look at the athletic page as it really is simple to navigate around and they would find a lot of information on each sport," states interim Athletic Director Mark Hopping. Go to blackburn.edu and click on athletics and there is a calendar on the right hand side of the screen that provides game dates, times and locations.

If the only excuse for not supporting the college and its athletes is lack of awareness, than it is time for change. The 'Burnian is going to make the athletic schedule more accessible to students across campus. The schedule for upcoming sporting events is going to be published in the paper to bring further awareness at Blackburn while hopefully giving a boost to school spirit.

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