

## Blackburn College President John Comerphish

By Gary Lowder

Over the past year Blackburn College has been experiencing trouble with ‘phishing’ schemes. Phishing is the act of trying to obtain personal information for malicious reasons by pretending to be someone else through electronic communication. Typical sensitive information sought by ‘phisherman’ include credit card information, usernames and passwords or social security numbers - typically anything that could be used for identity theft or to steal money. The phishing scheme at Blackburn is called email spoofing.

One persona that the phisherman have used a number of times is that of Blackburn President Dr. John Comerford. “They have used my name in their setup, so when you get the email it says it’s from John Comerford. They

“*Luckily our staff was smart enough to pick up that it wasn’t me sending these messages.*”

**Dr. John Comerford**

have asked for account information and other sorts of information that could be used to steal money,” he said. “Luckily our staff was smart enough to pick up that it wasn’t me sending these messages.”

When asked to describe these messages Comerford said, “The emails are always signed Dr. John Comerford... and I would [sign] that

way. They are always rude - ‘I need these right now!’ and that sorta stuff, and they always ask for things I would never ask for over an email... I would never ask for bank account information at all. Why would I need that?”

Director of Technology Services Jason Cloninger manages Blackburn’s email server and describes the struggle

See **Comerphish**, page 2

## A Sticky Situation

**Dr. Comerford to be Duct Taped**

By Dusty Glass

College president Dr. John Comerford recently agreed to be taped to a wall for a fundraiser for the Macoupin Center for the Developmentally Disabled (MCDD).

The Leadership Skills Workshop class taught by professor of political science Dr. Laura Wiedlocher is hosting the fundraiser for the 20th anniversary of the MCDD Mini Olympics on Sept. 30. The idea for the fundraiser came from one of the students during an in-class brainstorming session. This event will feature a bake sale, donation centers to sponsor athletes and students will be able to purchase lengths of duct tape (\$1 per foot) to adhere Comerford to the wall. Students may also bring rolls of toilet paper to donate instead of

See **MCDD Fundraiser**, page 5

## Funding the Masses

By Dusty Glass



PHOTO BY DUSTY GLASS

**Student Senate President Katy Pugh oversaw the meeting to distribute club funds this year**

Student Senate allocations were held Sunday, Sept. 11, and clubs have officially been funded.

Allocations is the process through which all clubs and organizations on campus are funded. This process begins by the college using a portion of the student activities fee to fill a larger pool of funds. Then campus organizations are invited to the allocations session to give a brief description of their club, followed by their plans for the semester

and why the club deserves funding. After these presentations are done, the senate decides how to distribute the funds from the pool to all the clubs. These sessions occur twice a year, but access is limited for any non-senate members. While anyone can be inside of the conference room during a club presentation, only the senate members can be in the room during discussion of where to allocate funds. During the

See **Allocations**, page 3

## Dakota Access Pipeline Forces Some to Give Up Land



PHOTO COURTESY OF BENJAMIN LOWDER

**Ted Kaylon and Josh Bailey protest the construction of the Dakota access pipeline outside Carlinville, Illinois**

By Gary Lowder

The pipeline being constructed by Energy Transfer Partners crossing from North Dakota all the way into Illinois has been experiencing difficulty lately. In North Dakota, construction on the controversial Dakota access pipeline has already been delayed by the successful protests of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe. On Sept. 9, three of

North Dakota’s federal judges ordered construction on the pipeline halted and placed it under review. This is a temporary yet major victory for the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and other environmentalists.

In a small town like Carlinville these issues may seem far away, but

See **Pipeline**, page 3



PHOTO BY REBECCA O'CONNELL

**Marlee Lindstrom gets 1,000th dig**

See **Leader of the Beavers**, page 12

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# Atrazine levels in Carlinville’s water addressed

By Jess Willard and Veronica Milligan

Water is key to human survival; however, the water that comes out of the campus faucets isn’t the element in its purest form. It’s treated with chemicals at a water plant, and runoff does have the capacity to contaminate it. Ecology professor Dr. Jonathan Micancin looked through the annual water quality report for Carlinville and was concerned by the levels of an agricultural herbicide called atrazine. Micancin became associated with the topic of atrazine through a book he uses in his ecology class, “Ecology” by Michael Cain, William Bowman and Sally Hacker. Micancin discussed how herbicides can harm the hormonal pathways and immune systems in frogs and how these pathways are very similar in humans. This correlation suggests that long time exposure to water contaminated with agricultural run-off could negatively affect humans. However, there is no general scientific consensus that atrazine has negative health effects on humans. Micancin pointed out that despite the lawsuit between Carlinville and several other Midwestern cities against Syngenta, a major agricultural company, regarding atrazine in 2012, by 2015 Carlinville made no mention of atrazine on the water worksheet it sent to the public. Additionally during 2015, the reported range of simazine levels in the water was 0-0, but the highest recorded value was 1. These reports

contradict one another. Simazine is another agricultural herbicide of the triazine class like atrazine. Micancin believes the Carlinville made a mistake by reporting this contradiction to the public. Carlinville water plant foreman Jim Knight stated that the plant hasn’t had as much of an issue with atrazine. When he started, the lawsuit was such a large ordeal that it was necessary to test atrazine levels about four times a month. Eventually, the plant was testing for the herbicide once a month. Knight acknowledged that on a quarterly basis, the atrazine levels are checked and they have come back as “nill.” He added, “We send our samples to independent labs who answer directly to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). If there was a concern, then the EPA would let us know.” Knight did state that manganese (an element that can be toxic in high concentrations) levels were more of a concern for the plant at this period of time. He noted that this issue was being addressed with sodium chromate (a chemical used to neutralize the potentially toxic effects of manganese). Carlinville released a statement on Sept. 9 regarding the manganese levels. It said, “The levels of manganese at the water plant have dropped to a level that should allow for the use of products containing bleach without any adverse effects.”

# Up the Spiritual Creek without a Chaplain



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR  
Former college chaplain Erica Brown departed from Blackburn’s staff shortly after the 2016 commencement

By Jess Willard  
Shortly after 2016 commencement, former college chaplain Erica Brown found out her contract was not renewed with Blackburn. According to Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs Heidi Heinz, chaplain intern Jennifer Hardin and Chair of Philosophy and Religion Dr. Carter Aikin have been splitting pastoral responsibilities since. Although Aikin will be acting as the ceremonial chaplain, he will also

be advising Hardin throughout her internship at Blackburn. Hardin clarified that she is not a member of faculty or staff, but she is taking on these responsibilities to earn class credit for her master of divinity program through the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. She had her first official meeting with Aikin as her advisor in late August. Regarding her responsibilities, she said, “I am responsible for providing opportunities for spiritual nourishment for the Blackburn community as well as helping discern what the future of religious and spiritual life might look like at Blackburn.” Heinz hopes by next year the chaplain position will be filled. Her current concerns are what responsibilities should the future chaplain have and what makes sense financially for the college. “Blackburn is not in the financial state for a full time chaplain,” she said. “We’re in the process of examining new mission and vision statements. We are considering the students’ needs when it comes to our decision-making on this position.” Heinz also noted that the college’s affiliation with the Presbyterian church

# Comerphish



PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

Students working in the computer lab

Continued from page 1

against the phisherman as an ongoing ‘arms race’ that every business and industry with email services is fighting. Cloninger shared several ways students can avoid getting phished and how to recognize a fake email. He says that overly short emails should always be looked at with suspicion, especially if they tell you to go to a hyperlink or have an attached document. Never go to these websites or open these documents as they may contain malware that can hurt your device. Cloninger said, “A good reaction whenever you receive a suspicious email is a quick, ‘Why would this person send me this?’ and I would encourage students to even

contact these people directly... and give them a quick call or text asking if they did send you something.” A number of actions are being taken to ensure this doesn’t happen in the future. Since Google is the host site for Blackburn’s email server, the Blackburn technology team is able to use Google’s spam and malware identification software to combat phishing. There is also antivirus software being used on most of Blackburn’s desktop computers. Staff who are responsible for confidential or financial information are also on guard for any suspicious email server activity.

# Pipeline

Continued from page 1

they are in fact in our backyards. Chemistry adjunct James Pickett has been personally affected by the pipeline. Pickett said, “The pipeline bisects my farmland directly in half.” He owns a substantial amount of farmland to the southeast of Carlinville and rents it out for farmers to plant crops. Picket continued, “Our tenants are unable to plant crops here. They haven’t been able to plant all season.” The land grab may be a large inconvenience but many landowners are afraid to put up a fight. Pickett said, “There is always the possibility that whether you agree to it or not, that Energy Transfer may tell the government, and eminent domain could come into play. This is why most people, including myself sought legal council and just settled for compensation.”

Although the Texas-based company claims on its website that

“Today’s crude oil pipelines are designed to exceed stringent federal safety standards,” and “Dakota Access will be built and operated using the most advanced technology and monitoring systems to make it even safer,” Pickett and other landowners are still concerned that if something does go wrong with the pipeline or if there is spillage that their land will be made unusable. Pickett said, “I’m sure a lot of people are questioning the fact that, with the plethora of oil that we have today, from a number of different sources, is this really necessary? Today I would say probably not; ten years from now I guess it could be significant.”

Although Pickett was frustrated with the pipeline, he also said, “Energy Transfer has done nothing to make me distrust them.” The landowners whose land has been commandeered to build the pipeline are being appropriately

“The pipeline bisects my farmland directly in half.”  
James Pickett

# No More Quarters

By Patrick Benedict

Many of the students on campus have noticed the brand new machines in the laundry rooms of every residential hall. But these are not the typical washers and dryers that Blackburn has seen in the past. Gone now are the days of scrounging for change or going to the bank for a roll of quarters because these machines are no longer coin-operated. Instead students can now operate their washers and dryers with just the touch of a button. While this does not necessarily mean that laundry is completely free, there are still some benefits that this new laundry system offers. Prior to this semester many of the machines on campus were in terrible condition. In addition to not always functioning properly, some machines regularly broke down and even took students’ money without actually operating. Some of the issues with the old laundry machines came from when students would overstuff the machines and cause breakdowns. In an effort to amend the issue, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life Abbey Hardin has been working for the past two years to create a solution. Hardin cited several issues with the response time of CSC ServiceWorks, the company that provides Blackburn with washers and dryers, and their willingness to comply with the terms of the original contract that promised the college prompt repairs and helpful service. Hardin and Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs Heidi Heinz worked to renegotiate the contract which included assigning the help of a much St. Louis based service

representative from the company to ensure the campus would have better functioning washers and dryers and prompt repairs. Hardin believes that “we won’t have people overstuffing them [the washers and dryers] because they don’t want to pay as much so I hope that we have fewer maintenance issues with them.” As a result of these negotiations, Blackburn received all new machines and is now part of what CSC ServiceWorks calls “inclusive laundry.” While it is true that students will no longer have to spend a dollar in quarters every time they use the machines on campus the cost to operate these machines are included (hence the term) in the tuition. Students are now charged \$50 a semester for the operation of the laundry machines on campus. This breaks down to \$3.13 a week over the sixteen-week semester. Depending on how many loads of laundry a student does the cost is possibly cheaper than before. Assuming a student did two loads of laundry a week at the old rate of \$2 a load (\$1 for the washer and \$1 for the dryer) that would cost \$4 a week totalling \$64 a semester. Senior chemistry major and Assistant Snack Bar Manager Zach Zurawski stated, “We don’t have to stress about finding quarters or strategically planning laundry day around your work schedule to have a clean uniform.” However, for those students that mostly do laundry at home rather than on campus, the required charge of \$50 is far heavier on their finances.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TED KEYLON

One of the massive trenches dug for the Dakota Access Pipeline

compensated as well. The website for the pipeline states, “As an operating principle, Dakota Access Pipeline is committed to working with individual landowners to make accommodations, minimize disruptions, and achieve full restoration of impacted land.” Earlier this month protesters assembled at the dig site just outside of Carlinville with a sign stating, “No Dakota Oil On Illinois Soil” and cameras to take pictures of the construction. The protesters wanted to bring awareness that construction was still proceeding outside of North Dakota. Protester Josh Bailey says his reason for protesting the pipeline is environmental, “My main concern is the science of climate change and the necessity to move away from fossil

fuels, which is encouraged by most every climatologist that exists.” Bailey continued, “These scientists are telling us to leave [oil] in the ground, and I just can’t support making it easier to pull it out and burn it, which is what these big companies are doing...” The majority of the protesters see the pipeline as a ticking time bomb, that could at any second pollute soil and groundwater, whereas Energy Transfer Partners sees it as an opportunity to make money and make the U.S. less dependant on foreign nations for petroleum. The pipeline has also been useful in providing jobs to construction workers; the Energy Transfer website estimates that the pipeline has created 8,000 to 12,000 jobs.

# Allocations

Continued from page 1

closed-door part of the meeting the senate discussed the background of each club, and the merit behind funding the organizations based on both the presentation and other facts about the club. This senate consists of at-large representatives, commuter representatives and dorm representatives. Also included are President Katy Pugh, chemistry professor Dr. Mark Armstrong and Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs Heidi Heinz, who both serve as advisers to the senate. The vote itself is entirely based on the senate’s decision with both Pugh and the advisors abstaining from the vote. As president, Pugh presides over the meetings, introduces the clubs and facilitates the discussions. The advisers’ main jobs are to answer any questions the senate may run into regarding whether or not they are allowed to fund a request. The working funds for this semester were \$18,000 in addition to money left over from the previous semester. Of these funds, the largest amount of money goes toward clubs such as Habitat for Humanity, although funds are given based on what the clubs ask for rather than the size of the club. If a club should run out of funds, a mini allocations session, or gift request, can take place to resupply the club. Furthermore, Student Senate will match whatever money a club makes via fundraiser up to a certain amount. The final portion of the pool goes into the emergency fund that the senate sets

up at the beginning of the session. When asked for advice for freshmen, Pugh suggested, “If you are confused just ask for help. Your club advisor, me or anyone on senate really.” Any of these people can help clear up questions about allocations or getting something funded whether it is a new club or an improvement on an existing organization.

## Allocation Results

<b>Anime Club</b>	\$185
<b>Art Club</b>	\$185
<b>Beaver’s Army,</b>	
<b>Witchcraft and Beaverdry</b>	\$235
<b>Bowling Club</b>	\$715
<b>Challacombe</b>	\$423
<b>Cheerleading</b>	\$365
<b>Circle K</b>	\$867
<b>Computer Club</b>	\$185
<b>FCA</b>	\$294
<b>Graham</b>	\$1,900
<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>	\$3,648
<b>Jewell</b>	\$235
<b>Jones</b>	\$570
<b>Lethologica</b>	\$460
<b>Life Paths Club</b>	\$235
<b>Lions Club</b>	\$0
<b>Phi Gamma Nu</b>	\$1,054
<b>Pool Club</b>	\$50
<b>Pre-Health</b>	\$533
<b>Psi Chi</b>	\$1,185
<b>Psychology Club</b>	\$685
<b>Red Cross Club</b>	\$135
<b>Running Club</b>	\$100
<b>Secular Student Alliance</b>	\$85
<b>Spectrum</b>	\$185
<b>Spanish Club</b>	\$267
<b>Stoddard</b>	\$385
<b>Sustainability</b>	\$4,160
<b>Trading Card Games</b>	\$227



## Getting to Know You: Professor of Theater Carolyn Conover

By Patrick Benedict

Carolyn Conover is the new professor of theater at Blackburn College. Conover grew up on a sheep farm six miles from any paved road. Outside of school, she spent most of her time playing in the nearby woods with her brothers.

When asked what first got her interested in theater Conover replied, “I was born this way.” Conover has been performing ever since the third grade where she “played ‘The Tooth’ in a play about the dentist.” She began to take the craft quite seriously at the age of 13 when she started auditioning and performing at a community college near her home. From that point on she claims she has “not gone a full year since then” without performing. Throughout high school she performed in 8-10 shows a year.

Conover went on to get her bachelor’s degree in theater at Saint Mary of the Woods College in Indiana, her master’s in English and drama at Indiana State University and her Master of Fine Arts in theater from Michigan State University. Her first professional job was with Crossroads Repertory Theatre in Terre Haute, Indiana. She has since performed in several shows and works there as the dramaturge in the summer months. (A dramaturge is a member of a theater’s staff that helps arrange seasons of plays, hire actors and other clerical work.)

Conover taught in the English and Fine Arts department at Franklin College in Indiana for five years. While auditioning for M.F.A programs she taught theater appreciation for a year at Southeastern Illinois University before being accepted into the program at Michigan State University. Part of her graduate course work also required that she teach theater to undergraduate students while also working on her other courses and shows. After receiving her MFA, she accepted an assistant



PHOTO BY PATRICK BENEDICT

**Carolyn Conover, the new professor of theater**

professor position teaching theater studies at Michigan State University. Shortly afterwards she came to teach at Blackburn.

Having attended and taught at both small liberal arts colleges and larger universities, Conover decided that she is better suited to teaching in an environment like Blackburn. “All I’ve ever wanted to do is work in theater and teach theater...I was looking for institutions where I could be a more impactful member of the faculty,” said Conover.

Conover is currently directing the fall play, “Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast” by Lee Potts and Marilyn Hetzel, which is a collection of vignettes from the Lewis Carroll novels “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” and “Through the Looking Glass” (see “Down the Rabbit Hole” on page 8). The performances will take place Nov. 3-5 at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 6 at 2:00 p.m. in Bothwell Auditorium.

Next semester Conover will direct the spring musical comedy “Once Upon a Mattress” by Mary Rodgers, Marshall Barer, Jay Thompson and Dean Fuller. “Once Upon a Mattress” is a musical adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairytale, “The Princess and the Pea.”

## Clubbing on Campus: A Social Affair

By Dusty Glass

Many suffer anxious feelings towards groups of new people, but here are handy tips for navigating the abundance of clubs on Blackburn campus.

The college hosts a wide variety of clubs and organizations, ranging from intellectual pursuits like psychology club to hobbies like the Trading Card Games (TCG) club, and even volunteer services such as Habitat for Humanity. For new students choosing which clubs to join can be daunting, especially when they are new to campus and have limited contacts. This problem contradicts the purpose of clubs as they are social groups intended to help students. There are some easy ways to

alleviate stress about making friends and joining clubs.

Tim Morenz offered advice on the variety of clubs such as to “break it down into small chunks.” By focusing on just a handful of extracurricular activities, the amount of clubs isn’t as overwhelming, and the same concept applies to those in the club that the student joins. Meeting just one or two people is much simpler than meeting 20 or 30 people all at once. Furthermore, joining just one or two clubs allows for students to focus on a select set of goals rather than being stretched thin because of a large number of new duties.

Choosing a club that suits each individual is important as well



By Parker Ramaker

Through this column, I wish to share with you my thoughts and stories about positivity and happiness.

The pursuit of happiness is something people try to capture in their lives. People can identify happiness as buying a new car or raising healthy children. No matter what kind of happiness is being pursued, always remember that it is a day-by-day process. There are so many things to be grateful for that are taken for granted such as good health, clean water, food, etc. There is nothing wrong with setting goals and doing everything possible to achieve those goals, but there are important things to remember and see on the way to your happiness.

When it comes to striving for what you want, it is easy to be blinded to what is happening around you. I have learned many lessons on my way to getting where I want to be. I learned that meditation is better than I thought; I learned to not judge a book by it’s cover; and I learned that I can learn something new from the unlikeliest of people. Opening the mind and heart can be difficult tasks because of the vulnerability that comes with it, but in doing these things it gives you an opportunity to see and learn things to which you would have never otherwise been exposed. There are people that

present a scary or quiet persona, but in reality everyone offers something to enrich your pursuit to happiness.

I started my positivity movement by posting positive messages my sophomore year of high school. Every morning, I would make sure I put a positive message out to people via text or social media and hoped it would brighten anyone’s day. I am a firm believer that happiness is like the domino effect, and one after another, we can all pass happiness to each other. I have found success through my posts and my friendliness. I have heard from people with depression or people who are having a great day and they say that what I do helps them carry on with their day.

There is always something to look forward to. There is always something to do to better your outlook on life. We must take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to live. Everyday is worth your time. No matter how small or insignificant things may seem, a simple smile or a different outlook on your day can really be beneficial to your happiness. I hope to help you see the beauty in your everyday life that you may have not noticed. We live in a beautiful world, so let’s take the steps to enjoy it all.

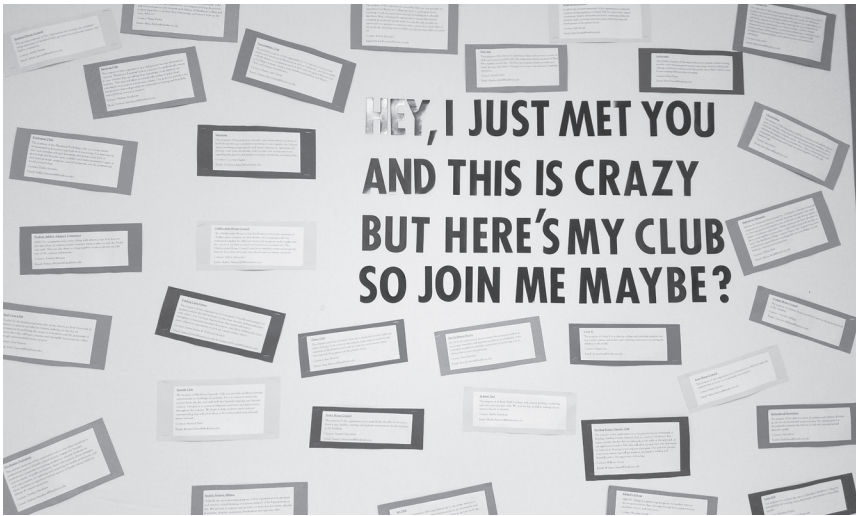


PHOTO BY DUSTY GLASS

**The billboard near the bathrooms in the Demuzio Campus Center show a list of clubs on campus along with a brief description**

because clubs are meant to be fun and productive instead of a mental trudge. TCG club president James Zeitler says new students should “Join anything they’re interested in because it’s a great way to meet new people and you never know how many connections you’ll make until you try it.” With the amount of different clubs on campus, chances are there already is a club following any interest someone may have, but if not students can start a new one by contacting the Student Life Office.

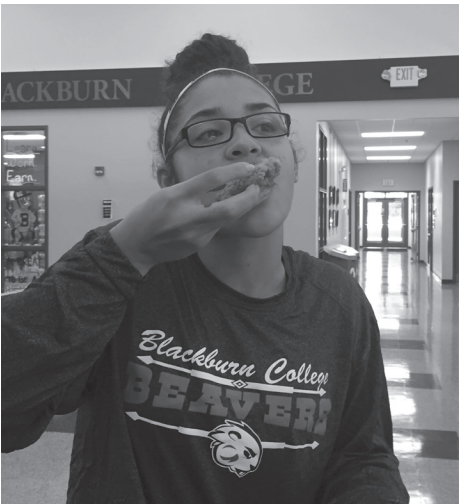
Clubs also serve a variety of purposes. Some clubs focus on academics and can help students study and learn new subjects, several clubs explore hobbies for those wanting

to pick up a new skill or to relax and unwind. Other clubs provide a service to the community for people who enjoy giving their time to helping others.

Beyond just clubs there are also several school-supervised extracurricular activities. For those who need to relax Morenz leads a meditation session twice a week as well as meditation class for academic credit. If a student would rather enhance their body rather than the mind, Blackburn is host to several sports teams where one could get either exercise or entertainment for their time. The college athletic teams range from volleyball and soccer, to basketball and golf, as well as several others.

## YOUR DAM OPINION: What do you think of Colin Kaepernick not standing for the National Anthem?

PHOTOS BY JORDAN WOOD



**Lauryn Jackson  
Freshman  
Kinesiology**

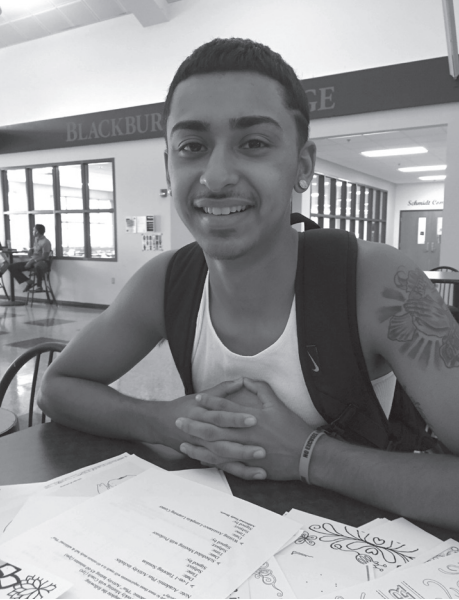
“People have always found some way to protest what we’re doing in America and that’s part of what makes America, America. A lot of people like to comment that they are not real patriots or that they don’t belong in this country or there are soldiers fighting for your right to stand for the national anthem, but they are also fighting for your right to not do that.”

**Eric Gudgel  
Sophomore  
Genetics Biology**



“Something that I love about this country is that you do have the freedom to do as you please. You have freedom of free speech, but while this isn’t [or] should ever on a legal level be punishable, in my opinion, it’s something that I feel like he has very little decency in doing...because it is because of these freedoms that he is able to make millions as a football player in the first place.”

**Robert Wingerter  
Junior  
Psychology**



“I completely respect him, like he was the first one to step forward and nobody else has ever stepped forward. And people need to take charge and they need to see a big person take charge because that’s what everybody in the world needs to see.”

**Jaaron Coleman  
Freshman  
Sports Management**

## A Changing Blackburn: Renovations on Campus

By Dusty Glass

Locked away behind signs and heavy doors are some significant renovations currently occupying Blackburn College’s construction crews.

Some students have no idea what the progress is like inside of these buildings, or why the change was needed in the first place. With large sums of money such as the \$300,000 budget for the Claire Jaenke Alumni and Visitor Center, students need to know what changes are occurring around them.

This past summer saw the completion of the Writer’s Block in the Lumpkin Learning Commons, and the continuation of several other projects taken on by the New Construction department. The Lumpkin renovations led to a much nicer area for students to study and relax in a quiet environment. The Lumpkin renovations coincided with the finishing of the remodeling of the Bothwell building. The Performing Arts department received a full makeover from the classrooms all the way up to a new stage equipped with new light, sound and stage systems.

The larger renovation project is the old Anderson building, which lies between Graham Hall and Ludlum, into the new Claire Jaenke Alumni and Visitor Center. The Anderson building has remained unused since its closing in 2002, until Blackburn’s leadership team devised a plan to utilize the space after renovation. This concept was then funded by the “Creating Opportunity!”

## MCDD Fundraiser

By Dusty Glass

money with one roll being equal to one foot.

The event will start at 11 a.m. on the Friday of Homecoming, and Comerford will “hang out” in the Demuzio Campus Center until 1:30 p.m. The sponsor-an-athlete opportunity will have multiple locations around town leading up to the event for both community and college goers to donate money for an athlete’s expenses.

The MCDD Mini Olympics is similar to the Special Olympics event and is just for Macoupin County

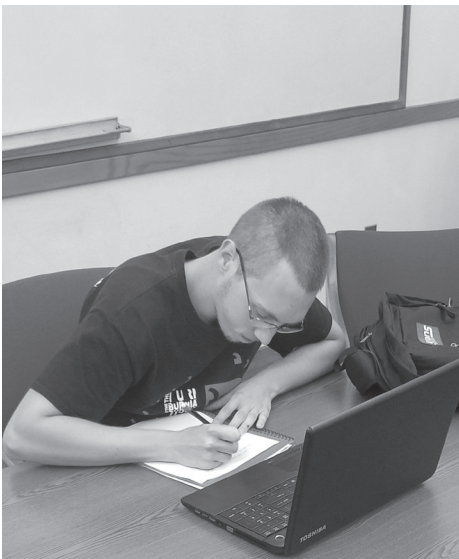


PHOTO BY DUSTY GLASS

**Project manager Logan Early working hard to organize the fundraiser project**

fundraising campaign and construction began. Student workers handled initial demolition for the interior and a portion of the reconstruction. Currently several professional crews are operating inside of the building in order to facilitate speedy construction. The end plans for the building include creating new offices for Institutional Advancement, a large conference hall and a general meeting space for both Blackburn alumni and students to enjoy. Several aesthetic changes are planned to take place as well starting by modernizing the building with new windows and refurbishing the patio. Fresh landscaping will finish off the remodeling of the building.

The third renovation is inside of the Woodward center of Dawes Gymnasium and focuses on a new fitness center being added to campus. Woodward’s renovations involve the main hallways, lobby and the old pool area. The majority of the renovation involves the complete transformation of the pool area into a new aerobics fitness center since the pool area has been drained and unused for several years. The halls and the lobby area are going through a general refurbishment to improve the aesthetic and quality of the Woodward building. New students can expect to see the changes within this year with the lobby and office areas, and hallways estimated to be finished in mid December, and the fitness area is scheduled for completion in February 2017.

and the six surrounding counties. The Olympics will occur Oct. 7 and will take place at Beaver Dam State Park. According to Wiedlocher, there will be around 130-150 athletes and 100 volunteers at the games as well as the entire Leadership class. The Blackburn fundraiser helps to cover the cost of food, t-shirts and other items for the Mini Olympics.

The Leadership Skills Workshop class has previous experience with both fundraising and the MCDD with the 2015-2016 class hosting two separate fundraisers to help provide equipment for MCDD. These fundraisers, a dodgeball tournament and a pajama day on campus, were both successful in raising more than their goal for both the class and MCDD, leading to high expectations for this year’s event.

According to Wiedlocher one of the greatest ways to learn by doing is to “find a need of the community and sort of rally around that need and see if you can meet it.” Student project manager Logan Early is tasked with making sure the fundraiser is successful. With only a month to complete the fundraiser, Early describes the class as “determined to get everything done as soon as possible, so it’s super intense.”

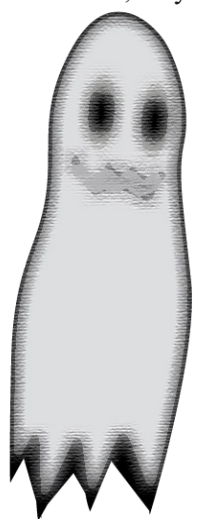


# Dr. Karl vs. Ghosts

By Gary Lowder

Anyone who has taken a class with Dr. Kevin Karl at Blackburn College can tell you that he is a very intelligent man. He has Ph.D. in clinical psychology and is a firm believer in the scientific method. He also has seen and believes in ghosts. When Karl was very young he lived in an old house in Michigan with his three older siblings. Often the children would play in the basement. One day when Karl was walking upstairs from playing in the basement he saw something paranormal. Karl claims to have seen three separate apparitions of varying height looking out of the window. Karl said it looked as if the figures were standing behind frosted glass. He describes these figures as being almost completely devoid of detail, saying he could make out muted color and slight movement. As young as Karl was he said he had no idea what was going on and at the time didn't recognize them as ghosts. Having almost thirty years to interpret what he saw, Karl now believes the varying heights of the three figures represented a family. The tallest being the father, the intermediate figure being the mother and the smallest, a child. He remembers the smallest figure turning around and taking note of his presence. Karl was unable to see any detail because of the foggy nature of the apparition but remembers being frightened nonetheless. As soon as this happened, Karl ran back downstairs to tell his siblings. His older siblings wrote it off as the over-active imagination of a little boy. Karl says this is the extent of his memory of that particular encounter. "The thing about... memory is it changes a lot over time. Things that you think you remember are probably different than when they actually occurred. I don't know--and it's impossible to know how much of that story...has gotten more embellished as my life has gone on," he said. "So, I can't say 100% that I have scientific evidence that ghosts exist."

Later Karl learned that his siblings had all seen a shadowy little boy in that old house in Michigan as well. Karl is not secretive about his ghostly experience, in fact he tells almost all of his psychology classes; using this experience to teach his students about the importance of fact vs. faith. "There is more to life than science. Yeah, science can be a huge part of a scientist's life but there is a lot more to it than that. We (scientists) deal with belief all the time, beyond the supernatural as well. We take things on faith all the time. Not necessarily religious faith... don't you have faith in your friends? Do you have any scientific evidence that they are amazing people? Faith and fact aren't even in the same realm therefore there is no conflict of interest."



GRAPHIC BY LUIZA MYSLINSKA

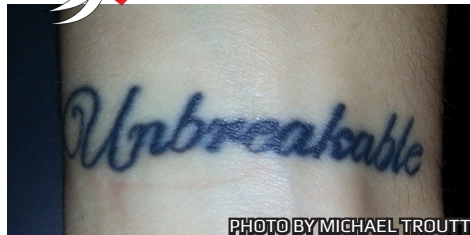


PHOTO BY MICHAEL TROUTT

By Michael Troutt

The word 'Unbreakable' is tattooed across the inside of, junior biology major, Aleisha Stiltner's left wrist. One of five tattoos, it holds a great deal of meaning to her because her mother had a matching one. She explained that her mother had always been by her side,

## Zika Has Reached the US

By Veronica Milligan

The Zika virus is making news again. Local transmission has officially occurred in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Mosquito spraying in South Carolina killed millions of bees and scientific consensus confirms links from the disease to microcephaly and Guillain-Barre Syndrome according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

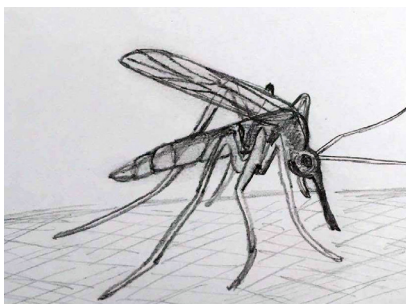
The recent bee killing in South Carolina was a consequence of spraying pesticides to control the mosquito population and prevent Zika. The CDC reports that the mosquitos that have the potential to become infected with Zika and spread it live all over the U.S. The southern coast of the country has higher populations of the mosquito species.

The WHO website confirms the suspected link between Zika, microcephaly and Guillain-Barre Syndrome. Microcephaly is a condition in which a baby's head is much smaller than normal due to malfunctioned brain development. Guillain-Barre Syndrome is an autoimmune condition where the

immune system attacks the nervous system.

The virus is a rather mild disease with symptoms that are not deadly to most people. According to the CDC, one in five people who are infected will actually become ill. The symptoms of the virus include fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis (pink eye). A person becomes infected when the disease is transmitted to them by a species of mosquito known as Aedes. The symptoms typically only last a few days and people are rarely hospitalized.

Local transmission has been reported in Miami, Florida. Transmission occurs



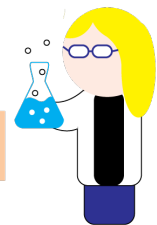
DRAWING BY DR. JAMES BRAY

'Unbreakable' serves as a reminder of her mother's strength and gives Stiltner strength today.

The lion has long been revered as a majestic creature, a symbol of royalty and power. As a totem animal, the lion represents courage, strength and the will to overcome. Which is exactly why sophomore psychology major, Angela Andrews, has one tattooed on her right shoulder. One of seven tattoos, all of which were done at a shop in Arizona, Andrews wanted it to be her spirit animal, to symbolize her personality and strengths. She described herself as being motivated, driven to do her best and stated that, "I am a leader in almost everything I do." Andrews explained that the lion is the most meaningful tattoo she has, because it embodies who she is and symbolizes her will to lead, succeed and excel.

Science With

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# God, Art and a Better Future

By Jess Willard



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTUMN CARDINAL

Every artist has their muse. Freshman art major Autumn Cardinal draws her inspiration from two sources: her firm foundation in Christian beliefs and her hope for a better future.

Cardinal is originally from Lansing, Michigan, and the place she laid her head for five to six months was a homeless shelter. During her stay there, she was introduced to a program called "Pictures of Hope."

Cardinal was asked to take pictures of what hope meant to her and ultimately chose to photograph rose petals alongside scarred wrists. "My interpretation was that hope is false advertisement," she said. "So I was romanticizing the idea of self-harm." After her photographs were showcased, she was offered a full tuition scholarship to a college of her choice.

Founder of "Pictures of Hope"



PHOTO BY MICHAEL TROUTT



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTUMN CARDINAL

Linda Solomon matched Cardinal to Blackburn College, and they visited the campus together this past June. During that time, Cardinal met President John Comerford. Through their hour-long chat, Comerford said he thought of Cardinal as a very strong woman who had been dealt a difficult hand, yet she was very future-oriented. "She's a gifted artist and will be a great contribution to Blackburn," he said.

However, Cardinal's experiences before moving to Blackburn's campus were difficult and life-shaping. Her initial drive came from her father's drug addiction. She wanted a different life than the one he was living and decided to complete high school.

In addition to the scholarship, Cardinal credits God for helping her get to college. "I'm here because God wants me here, and I talk to God every single day of my life," she said. From boys to her future, she consults with God about everything.

The free education was not the only factor in Cardinal's decision to come to Blackburn College - she enjoyed the way it felt. She added, "When I came down here, I felt safe, and I had not known that prior." Cardinal recognized that the chance to experience a different environment will be one of her biggest takeaways.

Cardinal chose art as she paints murals, performs spoken words and possesses a variety of other artistic talents.

Freshman Abigail Gathard is Cardinal's roommate and saw her passion for art from the moment they met. "Her art is very bright. She uses lots of reds and purples," she added. "Her art really reflects her. She's been through a lot of pain and is overcoming it. That art is a symbol of her starting a new life."



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTUMN CARDINAL

After college, Cardinal hopes to sell her art, but her ultimate goal is to be a ghost writer. "I want to be a lyricist for famous rappers," she said. "I don't care if I'm the face of fame, but I want to be the brains behind it."

Overall, Cardinal's transition to Carlinville and Blackburn College has been positive. "I don't feel homeless anymore. I feel like I legitimately have a home. It's not very big, but everything here I worked for," she said.

## A Profile of Pharmacogenomics

By Michael Troutt

Many researchers believe that pharmacogenomics will revolutionize modern medicine and stand as a milestone of scientific achievement. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), pharmacogenomics is the study of how genes affect the body's response to medications. While it is well known that physical features such as eye and hair color are based on inherited genes from our parents, researchers have already identified several genes that affect how a person will respond to various medications. Based on the information collected through pharmacogenomics, doctors will be able to prescribe medications to patients in a very specific manner.

Here's how it works: your doctor will need a sample of your DNA, which

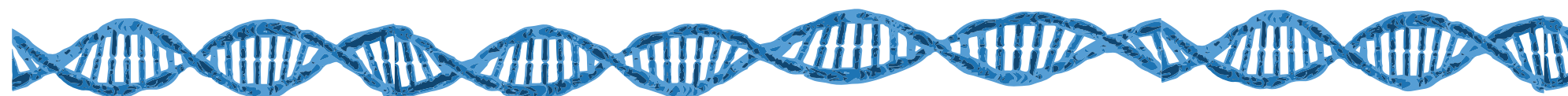
will most likely be obtained by a cheek swab. Your DNA will be sent to a lab where it will be entirely mapped out and sent back to your doctor in the form of a genetic profile. This profile will serve as a guide for how your doctor prescribes medications, based on your genetic makeup. Most importantly, this science is based around the prevention of adverse drug reactions (ADRs).

Approximately 100,000 people die from ADRs each year in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). With the advent of pharmacogenomics, researchers believe that they will significantly reduce that number. According to the Mayo Clinic, a renowned leader in medical research, when an individual's DNA is mapped out, physicians will be provided the

opportunity to prescribe medications without the guesswork. The genetic profile will tell the doctor which medications will cause an ADR, whether the patient's body will break down the medication too quickly to be effective or if the patient's body takes too long to break down the medication, causing a potentially toxic accumulation.

While existing medications will be prescribed more efficiently, pharmacogenomics will change the way medications are developed as well. During human trials, patients can be selected via pharmacogenomics; this will reduce the amount of ADRs during trials and will increase positive responses to the new medications, making the process of developing new drugs less timely and less expensive.

Currently, pharmacogenomics has a few gaps to bridge before it can be adopted into medical practice. The cost of mapping an individual's genome has to drop in order for this technology to become available for the general public, and physicians must be educated on the technology as well as how to navigate the genetic profiles for medical practice. Blackburn professor of biology Dr. David Reid acknowledged that "there is the ethical side associated with collecting genomic information," and asked, "who gets control of this information? Does an insurance company have access to this information?" While pharmacogenomics has plenty to accomplish before it can become available to everyone, its arrival is being greatly anticipated in the medical world.



DNA double helix

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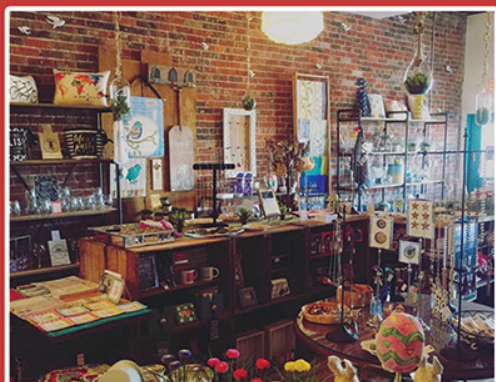
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# Talk Nerdy to Me: Doom

By Patrick Benedict

With the video game market flooded with remakes, reboots and sequels attempting to recapture the magic of a franchise’s past, developers have to work hard to make a truly stand-out title. “Doom” (2016) has broken the standard for dull titles that bring only stale content to the table. The game brings the pulse-pounding 90s shooter classic to the modern era with beautifully rendered 3-D graphics and a heavy rock soundtrack.

Players are dropped into the game as a nameless space marine strapped to a table in the blood-soaked ruins of a science research facility on Mars overrun by demons. While the core gaming mechanics that made the original “Doom” famous remain intact (i.e., point then shoot), the plot doesn’t explore any new territory. The developers (ID Software) focused more on gameplay rather than the story. What makes the game appealing is the focus on speed and sheer destructive power of the protagonist (affectionately named Doomguy). Players are tasked with getting through waves and waves of

“*Even the big ‘twist ending’ seems predictable after several hours of gameplay.”*  
Patrick Benedict

demons to achieve some objective such as gathering a keycard or destroying an enemy structure.

The game is surprisingly gory, especially with the implementation of the new “glory kill,” a function of the game where the player causes a demon to stagger (usually by shooting at the legs) and then proceeds to pummel it into nothingness. These sections of the game are quite graphic but also serve to keep the destruction of the demon hordes both interesting and fast-paced. “Doom” also keeps gameplay

interesting by giving players a myriad of weapons to dispatch the in-game enemies. Each weapon comes with the option of special upgrades that can be earned through the progression of the game. These upgrades provide the player with special tactical advantages that then must be strategically used to maximize the punishment they can dole out.

The game’s storyline is rather bland despite the well-crafted gameplay. The plot seems to get lost due to the fast-paced run and gun shooter style

of the game. The story boils down to one of the facility’s researchers being corrupted by demons and proceeding to open up a portal to hell and it is the player’s job to destroy all the demons and close off the portal by any means necessary. Many ideas in the plot seem unclear and unconnected, leaving the player a bit confused. The game does provide the player with a codex of Doom universe lore that feels more like reading a textbook and really detracts from the action. The plot culminates in some interesting boss fights from a gameplay standpoint but the player is left with a feeling of confronting a complete stranger rather than a thrilling antagonist built up by the game’s plot. Even the big “twist ending” seems predictable after several hours of gameplay.

Storyline issues aside, the gameplay actually keeps the time spent on the game interesting and quite enjoyable. Doom’s emphasis on action will keep any thrill-seeking player happy despite the lack of story substance.

## Down the Rabbit Hole

By Rebecca O’Connell

Blackburn College is going down the rabbit hole. This fall the Blackburn Theatre Department will put on “Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast,” an adaptation of author Lewis Carroll’s nonsense fiction novel “Alice’s Adventures In Wonderland.” Carroll’s novel tells the story of a girl named Alice who has fallen down a rabbit hole after following a white, waistcoat-wearing, pocket watch-carrying rabbit. Alice has to find her way home while she meets many strange characters, such as a crazy hat maker whose watch is forever frozen at tea time, a grinning cat that can change his appearance and a queen with a rather large head and an obsession with hearts and the color red.

The story of Alice has been adapted many times since it was first published in 1865, the most famous adaptation being Disney’s 1951 animated version which is very similar to Carroll’s original novel. The story itself has slightly dark undertones to it and Disney stayed close enough to the plot of the novel that the film could scare children. Despite the fact that she now enjoys the animated movie, sophomore Ursa-Minor Matlock said, “I remember being frightened of the cartoon when I was younger.” Today the animated movie is considered a Disney classic. Now Blackburn is joining the extensive line of productions, thanks to the Performing Arts Department.

“Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast,” which was written by Marilyn Hetzel and Lee Potts, was chosen by new theater professor Dr. Carolyn Conover for its theatrical staging, opportunities for creativity and its level of difficulty. This particular show uses the human body to create the props and creatures. making it truly



PHOTO BY REBECCA O'CONNELL

### Chapter 1: Down the Rabbit Hole

unique. “We are hoping to continuously walk the line between ‘wonder’ and ‘nightmare’ and have a balance of ‘fun’ and ‘creepy’ throughout,” said Conover. “Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast” features 13 Blackburn students in acting roles and other various students working behind the scenes to create something magical. Some students at Blackburn have heard a great deal about the story of Alice In Wonderland and have watched various adaptations. Some like Matlock have even read the book.

Based on what she knows of the story and of Blackburn’s theater program, Matlock is hoping to see “beautiful Wonderland scenery.” Likewise, sophomore psychology major Jacob Weber believes that the actors that Blackburn casts will portray the wacky and out-of-this-world characters well. Fellow sophomore Alex McAuley is hoping that the play stays true to the story with few changes being made to the overall plot because “things as old as Alice In Wonderland shouldn’t be changed.” He added, “Obviously it is going to be changed, but Blackburn will do a good job of it.” The show will open on Thursday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m., and will run until Nov. 6 with a matinee at 2:00 p.m.



By Caleb Long

Are you a fan of bands like Black Sabbath, Nazz, Tame Impala, Pond and King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard? If so, then imagine taking all of those bands and putting them in a blender, grinding them up into a fine, musical pulp that is then put through a phaser pedal, just for good measure. The result is Post Animal, a strange substance that will put you in one of the most wild head-trips of your life.

A psychedelic rock band from Chicago, Illinois, Post Animal formed in 2014. The band consists of Dalton Alison, Jake Hirshland, Joe Keery, Javi Reyes, Wesley Toledo and Matt Williams. Currently they have self-released two albums. Their first album, “Perform the Most Curious Water Activities,” was released in 2015 and was followed up by this year’s “The Garden Series.”

I’m a huge fan of this band. For a group that has only been performing together for a short time, these guys have shown they have an abundance of creativity and talent. They can be funky, heavy, cosmic, fast, booming or gentle at the drop of a hat - sometimes all within the same song. They are

young and hungry: two qualities a band needs to be successful.

While the members themselves are all fantastic musicians, a big contributor to their sound is the production on the records. A song such as “Hoverin’ All Night” from last year’s release, which uses both speed and pitch control near the end, is catchy enough to remind you of 1970s pop, but will also disorient you in the most delightful way.

Another factor worth highlighting is the performance of drummer Joe Keery. Being a drummer myself, I know that it can be hard to bring something new to the table while still being a glorified metronome. Keery is a solid drummer that knows how to lock into a funky groove, but is also loose and manic enough to bring excitement to a track when needed.

The only criticism I have of the band is that they are not an easy band to get into. These guys are not afraid to delve into the realm of the strange and the unknown. I have a hard time imagining that Post Animal is for everyone, but it’s definitely for those who have a love for the utterly strange.

# The Gray Area

By Jordan Wood

For some, it doesn’t exist. For others, it’s how you learn. But for most, it’s often what defines - and sometimes destroys - them.

Ask anyone what failure is and you’ll get a hodgepodge of answers ranging from “everyone fails” to “I do not believe in failure.” To freshman Abby Frerichs, success is “not necessarily always winning. If you’re in a game and you’re playing a really good team and you set certain goals, but you don’t end up winning but you achieve those goals, you can still feel good about it. You’re always going to get what you give out of what you do. You have to fail to build yourself back up.” Sophomore Angela Andrews added that you must fail in order to succeed. “Everyone fails and makes a mistake,” said Andrews. “Sometimes you can do everything right and sometimes the outcome is not what you want.”

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, failure is “a state of inability to perform a normal function” or “a lack of success.” In other words, you either succeed by completing, or fail if you don’t. There is no in-between; there is no gray area. My question is this: why should success be either black and white? Why can’t it be a gray area? And the answer’s simple: that’s simply not how we are taught.

We grow up hearing things like “failure is the opportunity to begin again” which at first sounds pretty motivational, but think about what it is really implying - if you fail, you must start over. These are the kinds of things planted in our head from a young age, so when we grow up and something doesn’t turn out the way we initially intended, we tally that up as a failure,

and that simply shouldn’t be the case. Instead, we should learn about something called “mini-success.”

Mini-successes are when you take a “failure” and look deeper. Look deeper into what went into whatever you were trying to accomplish. Maybe you didn’t do it fast enough, but you did it faster than you had previously. That’s a mini-success. Maybe you struck out swinging, but you swung hard at a pitch in the zone instead of watching it go by. That’s a mini-success.

I leave you with a challenge. I challenge you to find the positive in everything you do. You can no longer judge a success or a failure based on a win or loss. You can no longer say you failed because you didn’t ace your test. You find those questions you didn’t think you knew, but got right. You can no longer say that you failed in a relationship, because it’s a two-way street. You find the growth you made in the process. Follow Frerichs’ advice: “Everyone fails multiple times in life, but it’s just how you build back up to succeed. Try your best, give enough effort, and you won’t fail.”



PHOTO BY JORDAN WOOD

# SuperMeat: Making a difference

By Luiza Myslinska

Do you love meat but not the effects it has on the planet and its animals? SuperMeat is an online campaign that has set out to change the way we eat meat. Their goal is to widely distribute meat-generating machines. Imagine having your own meat-making machine in your home. Seems unreal, right?

Professor Yaakov Nahmias from the University of Jerusalem and co-CEO Koby Barak joined together to create a sustainable solution for meat and mass support locally due to the growing vegan movement in Israel. SuperMeat has already raised over \$100,000 (2.5 million being the end goal) and they aim to produce cultured meat that is unique to their company. The process

developed by Nahmias involves taking cells from an animal in the form of a small biopsy and incubating it in a machine that mimics the environment of that particular animal’s physiology. It’s inferred then that animal muscle and fat will grow within this machine, and the end product will be just like a regular piece of meat. The company’s main selling point is that there is absolutely no harm done to the animals used for the biopsies. They also boast that this process will make meat safer since it’s produced in a clean, controlled environment. It eliminates the use of added antibiotics and other unnecessary factors that occur in meat production. An additional benefit is

“*The demand for meat grows as the population is expanding, and the devastating impact of meat is something that needs to addressed.*”

Luiza Myslinska

# Invisible but Important

By John Hummer

When walking into the Demuzio Campus Center people see a clothed table laid out with hot food, cookies, drinks and various utensils, many might think that all of it magically appeared. That is assuming that people gave it any thought at all. No one sees what goes into setting up all the various events on campus from small coffee stations to the surprisingly numerous larger events such as weddings and donor dinners that happen on and off campus. When I worked on the catering team, no one saw me outside Bothwell in the snow at 12 a.m. waiting for security to unlock the door because I had to clean up an event. No one saw me cleaning dishes until 1 a.m. on Homecoming which also happened to be my birthday. People working on the catering team are underappreciated on campus, and this is exacerbated by students not knowing that Blackburn even has a catering team in the first place.

Whenever someone is told by a catering team member where they work, the response is always, “Oh, we have catering?” said Anthony McIntyre, current crew head of Dining and Hospitality. Anthony worked for Catering for as long as I did - two years. “It’s a good job but hard work,” said McIntyre. The reason he decided to switch jobs was largely due to the scheduling. “I didn’t like working sporadic hours. You could go from working two hours one week to working 30 hours the next week. I like structure.”

“Other than finding a job that more closely identifies with my major, the reason I left Catering was because of the long shifts,” said Dallas Newman, current assistant manager of Peer Counseling. “I feel like Catering would have gone better if it had more than the very few positions it has.” Catering is the face of Blackburn College in many situations because it is what the alumni and wealthy people see before considering giving money to the school. However, Catering is underappreciated and understaffed despite its importance.

“*It’s a good job but hard work.*”  
Anthony McIntyre

that we can completely avoid deadly bacterial strains, such as E. coli which has accounted for numerous deaths, and a newly discovered mutation called MCR-1 which has been found to be resistant to all forms of antibiotics. There will come a day where antibiotics won’t save us from this harmful bacteria and that day is steadily approaching if we don’t make a change in livestock production.

SuperMeat seeks to put a stop to the global warming epidemic that is threatening our earth. According to the documentary “Cowspiracy,” livestock contribute 51 percent of all total greenhouse gases in comparison to transportation which only emits 13 percent. There is also the very noble and ethical cause of closing down animal slaughterhouses. According to recent data collected by the Humane Society, about 9.2 billion animals were slaughtered for food in 2015 in the U.S., and that doesn’t even include sea life. The demand for meat grows as the population is expanding, and the devastating impact of meat is something that needs to addressed.

Removing livestock from the equation has the potential to solve world hunger by making crops suitable for humans, along with putting a stop to species extinction, ocean dead zones, water pollution and habitat destruction. Taking a five-minute shower to save water but then having a hamburger is counterproductive when you find out that approximately 460 gallons of water is needed to produce one-fourth pound of beef. Comparing this to a potato which only requires 75 gallons of water to produce gives you an estimate of how wasteful meat is in terms of water consumption. Records are obtained from the water footprint network which is an environmental organization dedicated to track the water footprint of our food choices and explaining the impact.

The company dreams to one day see a SuperMeat machine in major stores around the world. If you are interested in making a difference to countless lives and the planet, be sure to do your own research and support SuperMeat in their quest to save the planet and its animals.



# Homecoming: Building Tomorrow’s Alumni

By Jordyn Smith

Perhaps it’s the king and queen coronation at the formal dance that students love so much, or maybe it’s the annual rivalry football game under the Friday night lights. Either way, many high school students from small rural communities like Carlinville would agree that homecoming is an important and memorable tradition.

While according to Google homecoming is “a high school, college or university game, dance or other event to which alumni are invited,” prom.about.com slates homecoming as “a time to celebrate the school you’re attending.” While these two definitions seem to contradict one another, there seems to be an even bigger discrepancy between the actual homecoming celebrations of high schools versus collegiate homecomings - or at least there is at Blackburn.

Over the past few years, it seems as though homecoming at Blackburn has become less about student involvement and more targeted towards alumni development. In 2013, for example, nearly every club and organization lined the soccer fields during homecoming weekend in order to fundraise and bring awareness of those clubs to the student body. Food, headbands, T-shirts and more food were among the various items sold. There was everything from goat-pie bingo put on by Blackburn Christian Fellowship (which has since disbanded) to a routine put on by the cheerleaders at the soccer games. In more recent years, however, there hasn’t been a lot of club and organization involvement. In fact, clubs last year weren’t allowed to sell food whatsoever.

Aside from the annual homecoming dance, in which attendance is normally very low, and the men’s and women’s soccer games, which are no longer littered with club and organization tables, there are various alumni events happening on and off campus. Every year there is a Beaverthon 5K that anyone can participate in, but it is usually pretty unclear about how students can register.

What most students don’t realize is that every year there is a registration packet full of information sent to Blackburn alumni detailing the schedule of events for homecoming, including several invite-only dinners and get-togethers. While it is understandable that alumni enjoy attending their own events and may take pleasure in different activities than current Blackburn students, perhaps there are some ways we can improve student attendance at homecoming while still maintaining positive relationships with our alumni.

Why not incorporate more events in which both students and alumni are invited? Chances are that most alumni would love to meet with current students, while current students might wish to take advantage of possible networking opportunities. Perhaps there could be a mixer in which students and alumni both are invited, or maybe alumni can take a break from the beer tent and introduce themselves at the soccer game. Many students have even brought up the idea of having a Sadie Hawkins homecoming dance, a dance to which females ask males, to which alumni could also be invited.

If you have ever spoken to an alum, you have heard stories from his or her past - stories of how great their homecoming used to be and how different it is for students now. Gone are the days of homecoming pranks, Sadie Hawkins and even football games. Admittedly there is an alumni baseball game every year for both current and past Blackburn baseball players which is usually well-attended, along with “Blackburn’s Got Talent.” the annual student talent show to which many alumni attend. But should we do more?

Homecoming is a reunion for Blackburn alumni and current students alike. Today’s students will be tomorrow’s alumni, and in order for Blackburn to remain as successful as it is now, students need to feel appreciated while they are still here.

# Chicago University No Longer Observing Trigger Warnings

By Gary Lowder

The Oxford Dictionary defines a trigger warning as a statement at the start of a piece of writing, video, etc., alerting the reader or viewer to the fact that it contains potentially distressing material. Nowhere in the definition does it mention freedom of speech or that a trigger warning could censor a speaker or professor. Someone should have told this to Dean of Students John Ellison at Chicago University (UC).

Ellison sent incoming freshmen home with a letter congratulating them on becoming enrolled in UC. In this letter Ellison goes on to discuss how dedicated UC is to pursuing academic freedom and fighting censorship. These causes are certainly worthy and I endorse them 100 percent. Then the letter takes an unexpected turn. “Our commitment to academic freedom means that we do not support so-called ‘trigger warnings,’” Ellison wrote. His first mistake was to make light of trauma survivors by deauthenticating trigger warnings.

Dr. Karen Dillon, an English professor at Blackburn, analyzed Ellison’s tone and word choice used in this letter. Dillon described Ellison’s diction and tone as sarcastic, patronizing, and “dickish.” “As someone who grew up with a family member who had post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD),” said Dillon, “deauthenticating trauma triggers is something I don’t take lightly.” Triggers can bring back memories of trauma while causing the victim to experience intense emotional or mental reactions. These reactions can vary from elevated heart rate or panic attacks to complete mental recollection of the trauma. Simply put, someone who has PTSD can relive the events that gave them the disorder in real time with even a small shocking reminder of the traumatic events. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, “Re-experiencing symptoms may cause problems in a person’s everyday routine. The symptoms can start from the person’s own thoughts and feelings. Words, objects, or situations that are reminders of the event can also trigger re-experiencing symptoms.”

Ellison seems to think these trigger warnings are censoring lessons and affecting academic freedom. I wasn’t aware that issuing trigger warnings was such a bother to college professors. I decided to get a Blackburn perspective on the issue and interviewed several professors in different fields. All of these professors gave me the same answer: it isn’t a problem. When asked their opinion on the letter, all of the professors agreed with the core message of academic freedom but said that the letter was wrong to invalidate trigger warnings in the classroom. Psychology professor Dr. Kevin Karl said, “This letter is trying to limit the students...It talks about free expression and it talks about making sure everyone is an independent person. Then he puts limits on it in the next sentence; that doesn’t make any sense. You can’t contradict yourself in the same letter.”

The real problem that I have with this letter is that by choosing to not support trigger warnings, Ellison and CU have effectively discriminated against and isolated a group of people, including combat veterans, sexual assault victims and survivors of abuse or other violence. According to the Nebraska Department of Veteran Affairs almost 10 percent of Americans will develop PTSD, and not all of these people will require trigger warnings, but a short sentence at the beginning of a lecture seems like a small price to pay to ensure students or observers are not affected negatively.

Sept. 2016

# The Beavers are Calling

By Parker Ramaker

Much of the the success of Blackburn’s athletics is through recruitment. Blackburn encourages anyone to tryout, but it takes extra hard work from the head coaches to bring and attract the best talent. In past seasons, Blackburn has had trouble filling teams with enough players to properly compete. In the fall of 2016, Blackburn’s head coaches put in more work to potentially bring wins. Women’s soccer head coach Tim Gould had a busy summer looking for a goalkeeper to push their team to the next level. Gould was able to recruit freshman Ashley Hoban from Parker, Arizona. Hoban said when she was approached by Gould, that he knew everything about her and her skills. “I felt like I belonged here; he made me feel welcomed,” said Hoban.

Gould is ready to utilize a larger roster than last season. “I’m excited that we are adding 15 new players to our program,” he said. “They are coming from a variety of programs and bring us some different playing styles and strengths. It will be fun seeing how each of the players will fit into the program.” Women’s soccer at Blackburn has added players from all over the country this season, including players from Puerto Rico.

Women’s volleyball also added a group of players to their roster after last season’s much smaller team. Five women were added including freshman outside hitter Nikki Ridgeway from Christopher, Illinois. The women’s volleyball team hired new coach Jim Hunstein. Hunstein had success last year at Lewis and Clark Community College and has brought his talents and different coaching style to Blackburn. Hunstein held open gyms in the summer to observe and acquire new talent for the program. Ridgeway took advantage of these open gyms and showed Hunstein what she can bring to the program. The women’s volleyball team has several underclassmen ready to rebuild the program and bring more wins for Blackburn.

Blackburn is ready to turn a new page in the athletics department and to hoist more championship banners. There is a combination of new coaches, new players and new tactics that are being used to bring respect back to Blackburn Athletics and respect to the SLIAC. “If we play like we practice,” said Hoban, “we will kick butt.”

# Stinky Superstitions

By Jordan Wood

Everyone has that special thing that they do or think about when the going gets tough, but athletes take this to an entirely different level. Many will go to the ends of the earth if it means keeping a streak going or winning a game. While normally superstitions and pre-game rituals are fairly mild, like a pair of lucky socks or dancing to a favorite song, some athletes go above and beyond with some strange superstitions.

Anyone even slightly informed of the sports world knows the names Michael Jordan and Serena Williams, who are both arguably the best at their respective sports. What many people don’t know is just how superstitious they are. In fact, according to Men’s Fitness, Jordan is the reason NBA players began wearing longer shorts. He believed that his old alma mater – the University of North Carolina - game shorts brought him good luck so he wore a pair under his uniform pants every game. In order to cover them he began to wear longer game pants which in turn led to a league-wide trend.

If you think Jordan’s habits are a little excessive, then wait for Williams’. She not only brings her shower shoes down to the court with her before every match, but before every serve she must bounce the ball five times before the first and twice before the second.

Now while those are some crazy superstitions and rituals, Men’s Fitness also outed former MLB first baseman Jason Giambi’s wild superstition. During his time with Oakland Athletics, New York Yankees, Colorado Rockies and Cleveland Indians, Giambi would wear a golden thong whenever he fell into a slump.

As for Blackburn athletes, superstitions and rituals are less extreme, but there are still some unusual ones. Women’s basketball player freshman Abby Frerichs credited her softball team’s third place finish at nationals to the fact that if they “won in a certain uniform, we couldn’t change it, we just left it on, we couldn’t wash it, we played in it.” When she was in middle school she had a pair of lucky rainbow socks that had a pot of gold on the sides. She would also eat a 100 Grand and drink a purple sports drink before every single game because she thought “since the candy bar was 100 Grand, [she was] going to play like a 100 grand.” She has now moved on to peaches and toast before games.

Other athletes like to listen to certain music, dance around with teammates, pray together and even refuse to wash their uniforms. So remember: the next time your classroom smells like feet, it might just be gameday.

## Athletics Schedule

Men’s Soccer				Women’s Soccer			
Sat	Sept. 24	at Iowa Wesleyan *	3:00 PM	Sat	Sept. 24	at Iowa Wesleyan *	1:00 PM
Tue	Sept. 27	at Robert Morris-S’fiel	6:00 PM	October			
October				Sat	Oct. 1	Eureka *	1:00 PM
Sat	Oct. 1	Eureka *	3:00 PM	Wed	Oct. 5	at MacMurray *	1:00 PM
				Sat	Oct. 8	Spalding *	1:00 PM
Wed	Oct. 5	at MacMurray *	3:00 PM				
Sat	Oct. 8	Spalding *	3:00 PM				
Men & Women’s Cross Country				Women’s Volleyball			
Fri	Sept. 30	at Millikin	4:30 PM	Sat	Sept. 24	vs. MacMurray @ Eureka Collge *	10:00 AM
Sat	Oct. 1,	Beaverthon	8:30 AM			at Eureka *	2:00 PM
		* Beaverthon Road Race		Tue	Sep. 27	Webster *	7:00 PM
Sat	Oct. 8	at Principia	11:00 AM	Thu	Sep. 29	at Iowa Wesleyan *	7:00 PM
				October			
				Sat	Oct. 1	Robert Morris-S’fiel	2:00 PM
				Tue	Oct. 4	MacMurray *	7:00 PM
				Thu	Oct. 6	Greenville *	7:00 PM

the‘burnian

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MISSION STATEMENT

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.

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# Leader of the Beavers



Senior Marlee Lindstrom (center) during a match against Spalding at Principia. Also pictured: Junior Alexis Dick (left) and freshman Maria Cline (right).  
By Parker Ramaker

In the U.S., there is a great appreciation for athletes. The appreciation is for their hard work, their special skills and their ability to entertain. Blackburn College has been home to an athlete who has been a leader since she arrived to play volleyball. Senior Marlee Lindstrom demonstrates excellence on and off the court. She is entering her final year as a collegiate volleyball player, but is leaving a legacy behind worth noting. Lindstrom now has over 1,000 career digs and counting.

Lindstrom's position on the court is a libero, meaning she is running all around the court digging spikes, setting her hitters and keeping rallies alive. According to Lindstrom, prior to her arrival at Blackburn, she was used to winning often. However, the Blackburn Volleyball team has had losing seasons every year she has been attending the school. Every year she has had a new head coach and understands that it is tough to have consistency with a program. Enduring tough seasons at Blackburn, Lindstrom learned to lead a team that needed guidance when the team was always in transition. "I took it upon myself to make offseason conditioning schedules, make girls go

to open gym and skill training," said Lindstrom. She wanted to make sure her team was always ready to play, no matter what kind of adversity they may have faced. "I want my teammates to get better and we did not have a coach all the time, so I never wanted any team to out-work us," she said.

Her work ethic and passion to excel have been felt by many of her teammates. Junior Kirsten Buzzard has played with Lindstrom for three seasons. "As an athlete, she is someone you can trust. She is our leader without it being discussed," said Buzzard. According to several of her teammates, Lindstrom always has their backs and accomplishes her goals no matter what it takes. Every athlete generally has a team that cheers them on, no matter the outcome. "It is a blessing that my parents were there every step of the way," said Lindstrom.

As for her legacy at Blackburn College, Lindstrom says that she wants to set the bar for women's athletics because she wants women to always push themselves to be better than she is. Blackburn volleyball has had a great example of a player on and off the court and that is how she will be remembered.

# From the Dirt Up

By Jordan Wood

Four. That's the number of winning seasons in the entire 26-year history of the Blackburn softball program. 14. The total numbers of wins in the past three seasons.

As he enters his second season as head softball coach, Kerry Crum knows the numbers don't look great, but he has been in a similar position before as coach at Southeast High School and Benedictine University. At Benedictine he put together a national championship contending team before the school closed their doors in 2015. Here, he plans to do the same and begin a winning tradition.

Prior to his hiring as Blackburn softball coach, a single coach split time as head volleyball and head softball coach and the recruiting for both teams suffered as a result. Krum plans to change that. This past summer he traveled to four different states, attended almost 200 games and watched approximately 1,000 players. The evidence of his hard work is 12 freshmen and four junior college transfers recruited to help the four returners from last year.

Returning junior Hannah Goett is entering her third season as a part of the softball team and she described

last year as "a very long season, that seemed to drain everyone." Despite the struggles through a three-win season with only 12 players, Goett is optimistic for the upcoming year. "With only four returning players, there are a lot of new girls so I am excited to see how we all play together. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to play alongside [them]. I believe that we have a lot of potential to work really well together. I think we should have a decent season this year; I am wanting to better our record compared to the last two years." (sic)

Crum echoed Goett's feelings and believes the approaching season will be exciting and serve as the stepping stones for future success. When he accepted the job, he knew the hard work that lay ahead, but he was intrigued by both the school and the opportunity to turn the program around and make it into something truly special.

With all of the reconstruction, the hopes are high for Blackburn softball as they will begin their first steps towards the future of the program when the season begins in March.

*\*The writer is a member of the softball team.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF JORDAN WOOD  
Blackburn softball's hopes of a positive future begins with fall practices

# Train Ugly, Coach Well



Volleyball coach Jim Hunstein prepares to put the ball back into play for the team's practice session. Sophomore setter Jensen Ballinger pictured right.  
By Jess Willard

Volleyball coach Jim Hunstein has a passion for the game and a love for training others. He chose to continue pursuing those interests at Blackburn College when he was hired this summer.

Hunstein's involvement with volleyball began during his college years when he played for recreational teams and with his friends. One of these friends was the reason he started coaching. "Another mutual friend's daughter was playing on a team, and he was helping coach," Hunstein recalled.

"I decided to help them, and it just snowballed from there."

From 2008 to 2012, Hunstein was an assistant volleyball coach at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. His team won the national championship in 2009. Afterwards, he took a position as head coach of volleyball and tennis at Lewis and Clark Community College.

Hunstein was introduced to Blackburn after his tennis team played the college. He attempted to have his

volleyball team play against Blackburn later on but couldn't get them on the schedule due to Blackburn's turnover in coaching. "I heard about the job opening two years ago, but at the time it was a combination of volleyball and softball, which didn't interest me," Hunstein added. "Then, it became volleyball only, and that was my interest."

Hunstein clarified that coaching two sports is detrimental to both teams' development. "I did it for four years - coaching two sports. You never have an offseason. You're always involved with one of the teams, but you keep thinking you have to do something for the other team," he said. Hunstein mentioned that there are practices to arrange to train in the offseason, and the other element to focus on is recruiting. Overall, he noted that going back and forth between the two sports can be difficult to juggle.

Defensive specialist Alexis Dick has been playing volleyball at Blackburn College for three years. Hunstein will be her third coach. "It's hard to create a foundation when there's

a constant change in coaching staff. There's no set rotation or positions," she said.

However, Dick believes Hunstein could be the best coach she has had at Blackburn so far. She explained that the coach she had her freshman year was more focused on fundamentals, and her coach during her sophomore year had no set structure. She added, "[Hunstein's] theory is to make mistakes and learn from them. He's not a punishing coach."

Hunstein noted his coaching philosophy is to train ugly. Instead of creating simulations for the team to practice in, he believes in having them play actual games during practice. He explained that games are going to be random, so his practices should prepare the players for those situations.

Hunstein emphasized that he wanted to provide the team with the stability they deserve. He clarified, "They need to know someone is going to be here for a while to build a program that they can believe in."