

THE 'BURNIAN

BLACKBURN COLLEGE

# #Youconfessedwhatontwitter?

Vol. 10, No. 1 Feb. 2014

By Michelle Lee

One week before the spring semester started, Blackburn College gained national attention in an unconventional way: a college confession Twitter page. CollegeFession is a national Twitter page to which college students submit anonymous confessions. Since the Twitter account was opened on January 4, 2014, CollegeFession has received over 5,000 tweets and gained approximately 430,000 followers. The nature of the confessions is generally sexual and/or related to alcohol. Colleges from all over the United States have been represented on the page, including Blackburn.

To date, two confessions have been posted from Blackburn College. The first was posted on Jan. 5 and read, "Slept with a girl who I

later found out was sleeping through the alphabet! Luckily, I'm near the beginning!" The second confession (which was also misspelled), posted on Jan. 13, said, "Freshman year I used to lock my roommate out just so I could masterbate." Both confessions include sexual content, but are considerably less graphic compared to content on the rest of the Twitter page. Senior Marissa Huff said, "I've read some from other schools and thought they were hilarious. So far ours are tame." There's a definite variety of obscenity on CollegeFession, ranging from professions of love for hot sauce to detailed and explicit recounting of illegal activity.

When the first confession was posted, many Blackburn

students who use Twitter followed CollegeFession to see if any other tweets would be posted from Blackburn College. Twitter user and senior Larra Brogdon's first reaction wasn't one of shock: "I don't personally find it upsetting that [Blackburn College] is on the site, especially since nothing I saw about Blackburn was illegal or all that dangerous, just kind of crude." While this national attention may not be positive for the college, former student Neil Connor feels that the confessions don't matter, saying, "I don't think either of those [confessions] reflect the college's image. [CollegeFession] proves that there are people that like to sleep around a lot everywhere." Brogdon agrees, adding,



Blackburn made a not-so-appropriate debut on the Collegefession twitter page with this anonymous (and misspelled) tweet by a student.

"All colleges have weird, upsetting or unsightly things that happen. It's the reality when you have hundreds or thousands of 18-to-25-year-olds living together." This isn't the first time Blackburn College has been mentioned on Twitter. There are several Twitter accounts created by Blackburn students to poke fun at the college. Accounts BC Secret Admirer

and BCshitnoonesays are followed by students on campus. BC Secret Admirer accepts anonymous submissions about crush-worthy students while BCshitnoonesays posts almost daily sarcastic tweets about the college. While these may not be national Twitter accounts like CollegeFession, they both aim to discuss happenings on campus.

## Class of 2014 Senior Banquet

By Marissa Watson

On Saturday, Jan. 25 seniors and their families gathered in Woodson Hall for the Blackburn College Alumni Association Senior Banquet. The goal is for "seniors to feel welcome and invited to the community of alumni," said Alumni Relations Coordinator Nicole Burns. Indeed, the banquet "is probably the first time that seniors have to think about not being here, but being someplace else. This is the beginning of their rite of passage," commented Alumni Board Member Joe Robey.

The event started with dinner and proceeded to a "pop quiz" given by keynote speaker and biology professor Dr. David Reid. Seniors and

their families were stumped with questions like "Who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2012?" and "Who are the richest people in America?" Following the room's hesitation, Reid shifted to personal questions. He asked, "What teachers have inspired you?" and "What friends have helped you through a difficult time?" He reminded seniors that those who make the most money or have the most awards are not the ones who count. Rather, "those who make a difference are the ones that care about you and love you," said Reid.

Senior Class President Morgan McMeen also had encouraging words for seniors. She spoke on the importance

of one's actions at Blackburn and how they can leave lasting marks. McMeen told seniors to believe that "the impossible is possible."

Following the speeches, seniors and parents enjoyed a slideshow of their baby pictures and a trivia game. Divided into six rounds, the game quizzed the participants' knowledge on Blackburn College facts, movies, sports, history, TV sitcoms and science and technology. The banquet "was a nice opportunity for seniors to get together and be recognized for accomplishing four years of college," said senior Paige Mann.

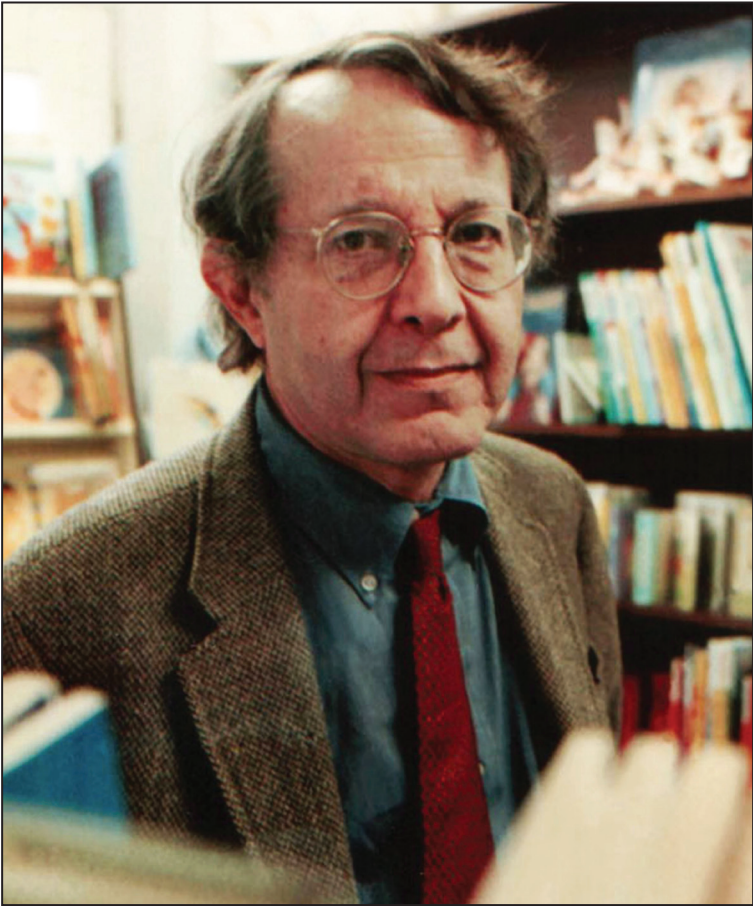


PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Award winning author Kozol was scheduled to lecture at Blackburn before being forced to cancel due to an illness.

## Author Jonathon Kozol Cancels Visit to BC

By PR and Zach Daum

After plans to lecture at Blackburn on Feb. 4, noted education author and activist Jonathan Kozol was forced to cancel his visit to Blackburn due to an illness. The Arts & Issues Committee hopes to reschedule the Kozol presentation at a later date.

Kozol was scheduled to lecture on topics related to his newest book, "Fire in the Ashes." Kozol is known for advocating the the importance of equality in education, regardless of ethnic or economic status.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Blackburn students gathered with their families to begin their change from students to alumni.

Ding Is Good. Wait ... What?

By Taylor Hess and Tavi Wallace



Freshmen Erin Huff (left) and Hannah Hosick (right) both enjoying the new addition of the veggie bar in Ding.

“*I really enjoy the double soup, I have to say. That change spoke to my heart.*”  
JAKE ELMORE

Chances are if you’ve eaten at Ding before this semester you’ve noticed more than just a few changes when returning from winter break. The phrase “Ding had some good options today” is quite confusing to the typical Blackburn student. Many would respond with, “Excuse me? Did I hear you correctly?” While this is a surprise the new Ding additions are an overall hit with students.

Some of the new changes to Ding include: a vegetarian bar complete with four salads weekly, homemade hummus and pita bread, daily spinach at the salad bar, multiple sundae toppings as well as chocolate flavored ice cream,

onion ring Wednesdays, a double soup station, a daily breakfast special on weekends, hot dogs served at both lunch and dinner, vegetarian entrée options and Gold Peak Green Tea.

Students had a lot of positive things to say about the new changes. Junior Heidi Tyson particularly enjoys the vegetarian station and sundae bar: “I love the pita bread with hummus. I’m pretty sure I’ve eaten it with every meal since the new semester started and the chocolate ice cream is the bomb.” Senior Jake Elmore certainly noticed the two-soup option, stating, “I really enjoy the double soup, I have to say. That change spoke to my

heart.”

When asked about who was behind the changes in Ding, Supervisor of Food Services Tim Lucas and new Executive Chef Joe Piechowski attributed the hard work to the entire kitchen staff. Lucas energetically explained, “This has been a really good team effort.” He continued to explain the changes as a response to student feedback: “I take anything I read or is brought to my attention and respond in a positive way.” That being said, Lucas and Piechowski encourage students to utilize the comment cards in Ding if there is a food option that isn’t being offered or notice something that needs improvement.

Senior Christian Gragnano, pleased with the daily spinach option, echoed the praises of many appreciative students: “Keep up the good work, kitchen staff!”



On Dec. 24, hackers leaked Snapchat user info onto the internet.

Oh Snap!

By Lindsey Becker

If you don’t have the app, someone you know probably does: Snapchat. The popular app economizes on a generation obsessed with selfies by allowing users to send and receive pictures and videos like messages. Users are able to add text captions and draw over their images. The catch is the sender determines the amount of time the receiver can view these pictures—after that, they vanish. In theory, the concept sounds secure enough, but a recent attack by hackers reveals that nothing is as secure as it seems.

The app uses a service called ‘Find Friends’ to help users locate their friends. By entering your phone number, you allow other users with your number in their contacts to view your Snapchat user name and add you on the app. According to the official Snapchat blog, on Dec. 24 hackers utilized this feature by entering a massive amount of random numbers and using the Snapchat interface to

match them with usernames to compile a list, which was then leaked onto the internet.

On Jan. 2, Snapchat issued an official apology and assured users they were committed to preventing this kind of abuse. Shortly after, the app issued an update that allowed users to opt out of the Find Friends feature. Users were assured that no other information, including snaps, was leaked during the attack.

The blog operates as a “a place where friends feel comfortable expressing themselves,” but after this fiasco, some users aren’t feeling very secure. “I started getting a bunch of spam, so I deleted it. It made me feel unsafe,” says former Snapchat user and junior Emily Rabida. With this recent leak, how long before content sent by users is leaked as well?

Despite the timed viewing of images, it’s already a possibility. If the recipient’s phone has the ability, it’s possible to take screenshots of images sent through Snapchat. The app alerts the sender that a screenshot has been taken, but there are ways around that as well. Apps such as Snaphack allow images to be saved without notifying the sender. Some are not surprised at this vulnerability. “I generally regard nothing online as private anyway,” remarks Larra Brogdon. Despite Snapchat’s promises to keep your information and content secure, users should be aware of potential breaches when sharing content with the app.

Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation

By Lindsey Becker

On Monday, Dec. 20, students gathered in Bothwell Auditorium for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day convocation. The event featured a video presentation and performances from students, faculty and staff. “Instead of it being a history lesson, we wanted to have everyone involved and get a sense of togetherness,” commented senior Justina Smiley, student assistant in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, who helped organize the event. “I don’t feel that people will look at it as just a part of a certain history—it’s a part of everyone’s history.”

The video presentation, narrated by Smiley and junior Sawyer Burton, outlined the struggles of Dr. King and his followers, ranging from the participation of school children in the movement to clips from his famous “I Have



Hope Coston (right) was the first recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Leadership Award.

a Dream” speech.

Following the video, Dr. Sam Meredith and Senior Development Officer Nate Rush delivered a commendable performance of “Follow the Drinking Gourd,” while senior Reggie Guyton sang a powerful rendition of “I Need You Now” by Smokie Northful.

Reverend Erica Brown

read an original poem titled “He Had a Dream,” which challenged the audience to realize Dr. King’s dream of peace and unity. Jarrod Gray, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, read a piece titled “The Guilt of Equality,” describing the sense of guilt that is often felt by white people concerning this holiday, and how to turn it into

“*I don’t feel that people will look at it as just a part of a certain history—it’s a part of everyone’s history.*”  
JUSTINA SMILEY

something productive.

A new addition to this year’s convocation was the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Leadership Award. “Since we’re such a student-focused place and there’s tons of leadership that happens on campus, I was trying to find ways to recognize and honor that,” said Gray, who pushed to make the award a reality. Selected by a committee of faculty, students and staff, the award is meant to acknowledge students who exhibit characteristics of Dr. King in terms of social justice, civic engagement and inclusive leadership skills.

The first recipient of the award was senior pre-physical therapy major Hope Coston, who remarked, “I’m very honored. I’m glad that everything I’m able to do is helping someone. Everything that I’ve grown up with has taught me that you don’t do anything alone. I’ve received a lot of help, and I feel it’s nice to try to return the favor.” The names of recipients of the award will be displayed in the reception area of Student Life.

## Talk Nerdy to Me: Interactive Fiction

By Max Vitori

Have you ever watched an episode of “The Big Bang Theory” and heard Sheldon reference a game called “Zork?” Then you’ve heard of interactive fiction! Interactive fiction is a form of text-based gaming that was semi-popular in the eighties but has since fallen into obscurity, although it is still relevant in certain niches of the Internet.

Interactive fiction is usually found in the form of text adventures, text-based narratives navigated by the reader through typed commands. The average text adventure is written in second person and begins by placing the “you” character at a location with a brief description of the surroundings: “You are in a forest. There is an apple tree beside you. A solitary apple hangs from a low-hanging branch.” In order to advance the narrative the reader must

type in a simple command such as “eat apple.” The player eats the apple and the narrative progresses from there.

With the spread of handheld technology, interactive fiction may be on the verge of a comeback. According to tech-savvy newsblog ReadWrite.com, the announcement of the Kindle Fire inspired the startup of an e-book publishing company called Coliloquy that will specialize in interactive fiction. The company has already published a number of adventure stories in the young adult romance genre. Interactive fiction is also available through a free app for Apple iDevices called Frotz, which gives users access to the IFDB (Interactive Fiction Database) and more than six thousand works.

If you’re interested in interactive fiction, I suggest you download the Frotz app. It

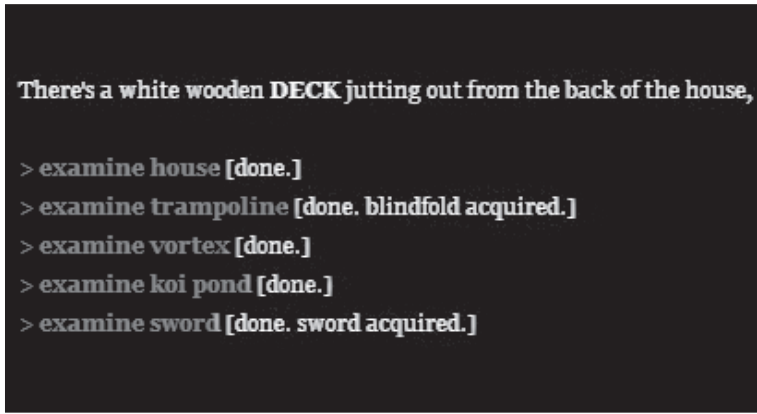


PHOTO BY MAX VITORI

Interactive fiction is usually found in the form of text adventures (such as the one pictured above) and is usually written in the second person.

offers an overview of how to use interactive fiction and will lead new users to beginners’ games like “The Dreamhold” and classics like “Zork.” You can find more recently produced interactive fiction at textadventures.co.uk, an online community in which the genre is alive and thriving. If you’re interested in writing interactive fiction, I suggest you first play some, and then download a program like

Inform 7 (for text adventures), Twine (for gamebooks) or Quest (for both). All three are available for free online. In my opinion, Twine is the easiest to get a handle on; Inform 7 is the most difficult.

Whether you’d like more interactivity in your reading or you just want to share an interest with Sheldon Cooper, interactive fiction is worth checking out!

## Blackburn College Crime Beat:

By Michelle Lee

During the last two weeks of the Fall 2013 semester and Winter Break, a total of seven incidents were handled by the Campus Community and Safety department. Director of Campus Safety Tim Reents has compiled a list of the aforementioned incidents below:

**Dec. 4:** A fire alarm was reported in Jones Residence Hall. The cause was believed to be a hot hair dryer. There were no reports of fire or damage. The incident was handled by Resident Life and Security.

**Dec. 7:** A student was reported as driving recklessly on campus. It was handled by Security.

**Dec. 7:** Security received a complaint of minor drinking and possession of hard alcohol in a student housing building. Three students were charged

with underage drinking and one was charged with possession of hard alcohol.

**Dec. 11:** A fire alarm was reported in Butler Residence Hall. Food was left in the microwave too long, causing smoke. The incident was handled by Resident Life and Security.

**Dec. 12:** Security received a complaint that a student entered another student’s room without permission. The incident was addressed by Resident Life and Security.

**Dec. 12:** Security received a complaint of a propped door in a residence hall. It was handled by Resident Life and Security.

**Dec. 13:** Security received a complaint that exit doors were blocked. The incident was handled by Security.

## Tattin’ It Up: BC’s Got Ink

By Courtney Egner

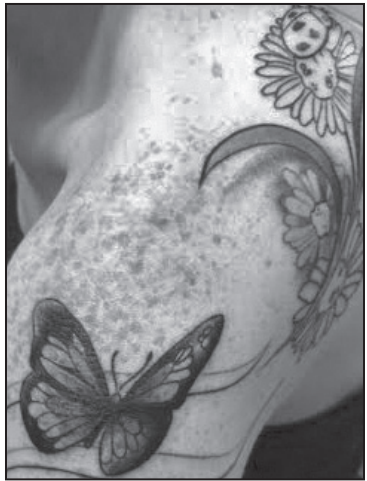


PHOTO COURTESY OF DESIREE MCCOLLUM  
Desiree is one of many students at Blackburn to display body art.

Tattoos are rapidly becoming part of our mainstream culture. According to a 2012 Pew Center Research survey, 45 million Americans have tattoos. In the age range of 18 to 25, 36% have at least one tattoo. So with that statistic, there have to be some people on campus with tattoos!

Sophomore environmental biology major Desiree McCollum has one full tattoo and is in the process of getting another tattoo finished. Her first tattoo is a cherry tree blossom located on her hip and ribs with her father’s birth date and death date among the branches. Her unfinished tattoo is located on her shoulder and around one arm and consists of vines, butterflies and lady bugs that will also include her mother’s birthday. “I put a lot of thought into my tattoos and they are both memorials to my parents. I absolutely love art and I find tattoos to be a very creative expression that I can carry with me everywhere. I designed the basis of both my tattoos and this is why they are very special to me,” explained

McCollum.

Senior vocal performance major Vinny Watson also has one tattoo. His is a pair of wings that he designed to form a heart: “I got the tattoo originally because the concept of the heart being able to set someone free intrigued me. The original concept (even if slightly skewed by the artist) was to have 24 feathers on the inside of the wings total. This represents my love for the number and a wholeness of an entire day. I like to ponder on the tattoo—as it gives me a sense of freedom.”

Not only do students have tattoos, but some of our staff do as well!

Admissions counselor Brian Herrmann has four; a memorial tattoo for his first dog, the word “Prufrock” -a poem by T.S. Eliot- in morse code, a skull and a halved heart held together by chains with a banner that says “Alone Together.”

Professor of English Dr. Karen Dillon has two tattoos. One is the ‘trystero,’ a muted post horn, from the book “The Crying of Lot 49” by Thomas Pynchon. Dillon said it was the first book that “really rocked my world.”

So does Blackburn’s President have tattoos? Dr. Comerford said, “I don’t have any tattoos, but it is amazing how socially acceptable they have become! I think the potential downside is being stuck permanently with a decision you made many years earlier. I’m glad that most of the decisions I made at 18 had only temporary effect.”

## The 'Burnian

### 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.

### Letters to the Editor

Letters may be sent to burnian@blackburn.edu, or mailed to The ‘Burnian, 700 College Ave., Carlinville, IL 62626. Letters should be no more than 500 words.

### Guest Commentaries

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

### Haley Welch

*Editor-in-Chief*  
haley.welch@blackburn.edu

### Sarah Collman

*Assistant Editor*  
sarah.collman@blackburn.edu

### Traci Kamp

*Design and Layout Editor*  
traci.kamp@blackburn.edu

### Aurora Grimmert

*Design and Layout Assistant*  
aurora.grimmert@blackburn.edu

### Max Vitori

*Copy Editor*  
megan.farley@blackburn.edu

### Professor Natasha Casey

*Faculty Advisor/Editor*  
natasha.casey@blackburn.edu

### Dr. Karen Dillon

*Faculty Editor*  
karen.dillon@blackburn.edu

### Rachael Lancey

*Twitter Consultant*  
rachael.lancey@blackburn.edu

### Staff Writers:

#### Lindsey Becker

*lindsey.becker@blackburn.edu*

#### Zach Daum

*zachary.daum@blackburn.edu*

#### Jake DeRousse

*jacob.derousse@blackburn.edu*

#### Devon Taylor

*devon.taylor@blackburn.edu*

### Edwardsville Intelligencer

*Publisher*

### Contributing Writers:

Miranda Clark  
Jessica Clements  
Courtney Egner  
Kayla Koyne  
Michelle Lee  
Brendan Lersch  
Aaron Moody  
Tim Morenz  
Marissa Watson



PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS AMBY

## Changes in the Work Program

By Miranda Clark

For the past five years, Blackburn faculty and staff have been working on the strategic plan for Work Program changes. With time and collaborative effort, a work transcript has developed. It will detail all the skills students gain through the Work Program and appeal to prospective employers.

Associate Dean of Work Rob Weis, Director of Career Services and Experiential Learning Suzanne Krupica, Dr. Sam Meredith, Department Chair of Political Science and Director of Institutional Research Kristi Nelms are the primary sources for the work on this project.

Ideally, each student will go over the skill sheet at the beginning of each semester with his or her department manager and supervisor. It will be a review of the different skills the student worker

should have by the end of the semester. Nelms mentioned, "Based upon my involvement with the work program since I arrived, I truly think we are going to improve the personal growth in every student."

At the end of the semester, each student will be provided with Behaviorally Anchored Rating Scale (BARS). It is an evaluation that will review the student's progress divided into categories, including, Technical Skills, Adaptability, Communication, Initiative, Leadership, Personal Responsibility, Problem Solving, Interpersonal Relationships, Project Management and Social Responsibility/Teamwork. "This is an exciting time to be working at Blackburn and be a student at Blackburn. We're going to be able to provide more resources than ever before," said Weis.

## From Insurance to Teaching: Meet Professor Brian Eberhard

By Brendan Lersch



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Professor Brian Eberhard originally was in the insurance business before pursuing a career in teaching.

Before his teaching career, Professor Brian Eberhard—Blackburn's newest addition to the education department—was in the insurance business. After five years of this, Eberhard decided to go back to school and get his teaching certificate. He taught high school for three years in California. He then went on to the University of Wyoming and received a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction. He is now working towards his PhD, also at the University of Wyoming.

Eberhard arrived at Blackburn in the fall of 2013. He said it had always been his hope to teach at a small liberal arts college and the Work Program at Blackburn made the school even more attractive to him.

A goal for Eberhard is to bring in more secondary education majors to the school. Sophomore elementary

education major Angela Russell agrees wholeheartedly with him. "The program seems to be geared towards elementary education majors because there are more of us," she said. "Bringing in more secondary education majors would balance out the department."

After living all over the country, Eberhard is finally getting to enjoy the Midwest and Central Illinois. He is looking forward to the weather warming up so he can barbecue and enjoy his favorite sport (baseball) by going to Blackburn and Cardinal's games alike.

As someone who is very passionate about his profession and hobbies, Eberhard offered some advice to students at Blackburn: "Try to find what you love to do. Jump in with both feet and pursue it with a passion."

By Tim Morenz

Greetings and Salutations, Blackburn College!

It is my pleasure to begin another semester with my periodical visit to your questions regarding mental health, relationships and wellness.

If you have a chance, stop by Demuzio 126 and meet our new staff of Peer Counselors! Caele Gruening, Jesse Medina, Jessica McClelland and Sarah Law would love the opportunity to meet you and help your experience at Blackburn to be all that it can. We are also pleased to announce the arrival of Melissa Jones, Graduate Intern from the University of Illinois at Springfield. Anyway, let's get to this issue's question:

"Hey Tim! I am in a rut in my relationship! Any advice? -G.C.

G.C., Relationships are just like our cars. Without periodic maintenance and inspection, they will never run properly. Our lives are full of constant demands, deadlines and obligations and unless we make our relationships a priority as well, they will suffer. Here are a few tips:

1) Focus on yourself. (I can hear you rolling your eyes!) Yes, it may be contradictory, but my question to clients the past two decades has been this: "How can you properly love someone else if at first you do not love yourself?" By paying attention to the "Who

## Talk to Tim!



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Blackburn's counselor Tim Morenz (right) with wife Angie (left).

**“Relationships are just like our cars. Without periodic maintenance and inspection, they will never run properly.”**

TIM MORENZ

am I?” question and focusing on your self-concept and self-image, you will be better prepared for the demands of your relationship.

2) If you have an argument or conflict, fight fair and forget about “winning.” Often in conflict, we so want “our side” to prevail that we forget about what our conflict was about! Conflict has two aims or goals: reaching compromise and coming to agreement. You must be willing to fix the problem. Say what the problem is for you; listen to what the problem is for your partner; attack the problem, not the person; and look for answers so that everyone gets

what they need. You get fouls when you engage in name calling, put-downs, sneering, blaming, threats, anything physical, bringing up the past, making excuses, not listening and trying to get even. And as always, if you want to talk it over, we are here to help!

Until next time, BEAVER NATION!

About the author: Tim has been a licensed clinical professional counselor in Illinois since 1997 and has 22 years of field experience. His office is Demuzio 133 and he can be reached at ext. 4201. If you have a question for him, he can be reached at tim.morenz@blackburn.edu

## McCurley Establishes Internship-Based Course

By Brendan Lersch

In the fall semester of 2013 the department of Business and Economics at Blackburn welcomed new faculty member Dr. Christina McCurley. Over the past semester she has been working hard to establish a new class. The result is an internship-based course working with non-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity or The American Red Cross. The internship runs through both spring and fall semesters with each semester focusing on a different aspect of the organization.

During the first semester, the student participating will learn leadership and communication skills. The student will do this by attending meetings with the Board of Directors in the organization they are assigned to. They will also job shadow various positions in the organization to find out what it really takes to run a non-profit organization. Then, the spring

semester takes those skills and applies them to a project for the non-profit.

Since this internship is credited as a class, students can expect some homework assignments. A bi-monthly journal will have to be kept and submitted to the faculty supervisor. Also, each student will have to write a paper and do a presentation about their overall experience at the end of the year.

The application process for the internship consists of submitting a resume, two reference letters, a short essay on why the student is interested in the opportunity and a consent waiver (once you have been approved). For additional details please contact Director of Career Services and Experiential Learning Suzanne Krupica at suzanne.krupica@blackburn.edu.



PHOTO BY OTA PHOTOS

Business professor Dr. Christina McCurley has established an internship-based course which will allow students to work with non-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity or The American Red Cross.

Surviving Long Distance Relationships

By Courtney Egner



PHOTO BY DANKA PETER

Long distance relationships can be difficult without communication, time to yourself and trust.

Going away to college is a big step for everyone, and leaving behind family and friends for a few months can be difficult. Some of us may have also left behind a girlfriend, boyfriend or a partner. While it can be difficult to maintain a relationship while being away for months at a time, it is possible. From someone who has been in a long distance relationship for over three years, here are some tips that will help you survive time away from your loved one this semester.

1. Communication is key.

If something is bothering you, you can't keep it bottled in. It's easy to pick up on someone's mood while you are with them, but reading someone's mood over the phone or through text is not the same thing. Your partner is not going to know how you are feeling unless you say something, and vice versa. Talking things out and listening to each other will help tremendously in keeping

tension to a minimum.

2. Do not spend every waking moment on the phone talking or texting.

It may seem like the only way to survive, but it will just make things frustrating. Do not suffocate each other while away. Make time for yourself and your friends. Time management is important, and time apart will make things that much better when you do see your significant other.

3. Trust your partner.

Trust can make or break a relationship. Your partner may be hanging out with friends, or maybe even an old flame, and you have to trust that they are behaving the way they should be. In turn, you must behave like you would want your partner to. You have to be up front and honest with each other.

Dealing with long distance relationships is not easy, but you can survive them. Follow these tips and the time away will seem like a breeze.

Campus Critters

By Tavi Wallace

When it gets too cold to be comfortable outdoors, it's only natural for us to want to come inside and warm up. And that's perfectly fine—if you're human. But what many students and faculty around campus may not realize (and what others may know all too well) is that it's not just people who have been coming—and staying—inside several different Blackburn buildings.

Within the first week back on campus this became all too evident in Stoddard Hall. Several students witnessed a bat in the stairwell and then later on the second floor. They tried to study, shower and/or just remain calm as the confused bat flew frantically through the halls and apparently even tried to make its way into some of the rooms. Dr. Crowell thought the bat could have possibly been suffering from "white nose syndrome," a disease that is characterized by a white fungus that grows around the muzzle and on the wings of hibernating bats.

It seems that it is not just

a onetime deal for Blackburn College to have furry visitors. Returning rodent guests seem to make annual visits to almost all of the buildings. They have been sighted from Bothwell to Rahme. "I get mice in my office at least once a year—usually when it gets cold, they come indoors. Usually one or two. And not so much when I'm around, although that has happened," said professor Naomi Crummey.

So, what is being done on campus to help this recurring problem? "Campus Services gives out about 25 boxes of four-pack glue boards during the winter to all the buildings," said Campus Services Supervisor Millie Abeln. Tips from Physical Plant to help avoid potential pests in your dorm and classrooms include covering open food containers, keeping lids on trash cans and picking up any crumbs you might leave on the ground. Or, as Champ Kind from "Anchorman 2" puts it, even tempt another potential "chicken of the cave."

Secular Student Alliance Formed at Blackburn

By Max Vitori

The Blackburn community hosts and participates in a number of religiously-based clubs. While these clubs are certainly open to students of all faiths, they are still founded with the purpose of promoting and fostering a specific faith's ideals through positive entertainment and good works. Now there will be a club where nonreligious students can go to discuss their own beliefs and principles: the Secular Student Alliance, or SSA.

The Secular Student Alliance aims to "provide an environment in which secular students can interact with one another on their own terms," according to founder Travis Buchanan. "I want to take time during our meetings to discuss how we came to value our secular and/or atheistic ideas."

The club will be associated with a wider, national organization of the same name, which helps to organize and provide materials for secular clubs on high school and college campuses. Buchanan heard about the organization from Ben Zalisko, Blackburn biology professor Dr. Zalisko's son, who founded another SSA at the University of Chicago.

Buchanan hopes that the club will attract people of all belief systems, including religious ones: "I think that it is important to gather the input of our theistic friends, and to challenge one another to think openly about our unique perspectives." In order to foster such a thought-challenging environment, the club will promote debate during meetings.

The mission of this club, according to Buchanan, is to help alleviate the "social burden of being an advocate of atheism in a nation that is predominantly religious." The SSA hopes to encourage and support its members by providing a forum for secular students to discuss their ideas with each other without experiencing disdain.

The Secular Student Alliance held its first meeting on Thursday, Jan. 23. Meetings will be held every other Thursday night at 6 p.m. Students from all backgrounds and beliefs are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Travis Buchanan at travis.buchanan@blackburn.edu.

Safety Through Self-Defense

By Kayla Koyné



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM MORENZ

Last semester Morenz organized a self-defense trip for Blackburn students to learn from trained instructor professor Marcos Barros.

Last year a self-defense seminar trip was organized by Blackburn counselor Tim Morenz. The trip originally began as a result of increasing demand from female students to learn self-defense. Then, an opportunity arose for students to learn from trained instructor Marcos Barros of the Gracie Barra School of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in Springfield, IL. Looking forward to this semester, efforts are being made to continue this opportunity for female Blackburn students to learn

self-defense. Starting as early as February, Morenz will host numerous trips similar to the one previously held on Nov. 9. They will continue throughout the semester.

Morenz is approaching upcoming trips with enthusiasm. These trips will continue to include a style of martial arts which emphasizes ground fighting: Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. "It is a bit different in that size, strength, athleticism and fitness don't matter. And the most important things included are timing, leverage

and momentum. These are skills which anyone has and can use. Therefore the trips are a good opportunity for women to learn some of those skills," Morenz shared.

Above all, the purpose is strictly defense rather than teaching students how to fight. According to Morenz, the main purpose of the self-defense trips is "enabling the woman to escape safely. We have to put away everything we see in the movies." Morenz stressed that learning self-defense is in no way meant to make women feel paranoid or scared, but instead give them the tools to be aware of their surroundings.

Care has been taken to make these trips not only informative, but enjoyable for those taking part. "Most self-defense seminars done for women are so serious," said Morenz. "But this is the time to learn some skills but do it in a lighthearted environment with a group who has the best interest of the women at heart."

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Why You Should Go See a Show at the Pageant in St. Louis

By Courtney Egner

Going to concerts is without a doubt one of the greatest things to do, but what about where you see a show? You'll see your favorite band play in an old, run down barn if it comes down to it, but a good venue can make a show that much more meaningful. There's something special about a venue that is clean, intimate and just all around fun to be in. It's more than just going to a bar and seeing a band play some mediocre tunes; a venue should be close to perfect, which is exactly what the Pageant in St. Louis is.

The Pageant is located in the Delmar Loop in St. Louis and has been open since 2000. Since opening its doors, it has hosted some of the greatest music acts of the generation, including Phoenix, Panic at the Disco, Fall Out Boy and many more acts that you might find on your iPod. You can see basically any type of music at the Pageant - hip hop, jazz,



PHOTO BY COURTNEY EGNER

The Pageant is located in the Delmar loop in St. Louis and has hosted various bands such as Phoenix, Panic at the Disco and Fall Out Boy.

folk, indie rock, you name it. The Pageant has something for everyone.

What makes the Pageant so spectacular? To start off, it is just the right size. Its capacity ranges from 1,000 to 2,300 making it large enough to host a bigger name band, yet small enough to house an up and coming band. According

to the Pageant's website, you will always be within 70 feet of the stage, making it an intimate setting. Intimate venues always make for better atmospheres for shows than if you were to see a show in an arena in nosebleed seats. The Halo Bar, located inside the Pageant, has seating available and obviously a bar, but you

have to be 21 to be in that area. Even in the Halo Bar area you can see the stage clear as day. The Pageant is also clean—I mean really clean. Most of the time at other venues you can find trash on the floor, water bottles, alcohol bottles and the floor just feels sticky. At the Pageant, you don't feel like you're in the middle of a

dumpster.

The Pageant also gives huge perks to those who arrive early for sold out shows. The first 50 people in line for general admission receive early entry wristbands. Those concert-goers get into the venue 30 minutes before everyone else. The Halo Bar has its own separate line for those who are 21, and those people can get into the bar when it opens at 6 p.m., usually an hour before doors open for general admission. There are always perks to arriving at the Pageant early.

Without a doubt, The Pageant is THE place to see a show in St. Louis. According to Pollstar, in 2008 the Pageant sold more tickets than all but three other clubs worldwide. At this point, the Pageant may seem expensive, but most shows will cost you less than 30 dollars per ticket. You can see upcoming shows on their website, thepageant.com.

“Frozen” Thaws the Hearts of the Masses

By Jake DeRousse



PHOTO BY EMRAHOZCAN

Pictured above is Anna, one of the loveable characters from the new hit movie “Frozen,” which was released Thanksgiving weekend.

Many times during my four years at Blackburn there have been movies that seem to take over the campus; these were movies that most students not only saw, but loved. Since being a college student seems to be an excuse to again indulge in Disney movies, these obsessions have included films such as “Tangled” and “Brave,” two movies that I did not especially like. The most recent movie to reach “obsession” level was “Frozen,” which opened Thanksgiving weekend and became the most successful opening weekend ever for an animated Disney movie.

Unlike the two movies previously mentioned, I actually watched “Frozen” in the theater. Also unlike the

other two, I understand the love for “Frozen.” While the movie is still a princess movie and definitely has clichéd themes such as true love fixing everything, the way Disney represented these clichés was refreshing. The most obvious change was the true love cliché. Instead of Anna—the main character and princess of the kingdom Arendelle—receiving a “true-loves kiss” to save her, it is the sisterly love when Anna sacrifices herself for her sister Elsa that saves Anna.

The writers of “Frozen” also brought back an important aspect of many favorite Disney movies by heavily incorporating music. There is a reason that students get extremely excited when the

Disney Pandora station is played in Ding: Disney music is iconic. Most students can sing classics such as “I’ll Make a Man Out of You” from “Mulan” or “Hakuna Matata” from “Lion King,” and now songs such as “Let It Go” and “Do You Want to Build a Snowman” can join the elite company.

While there were many aspects of “Frozen” that make it a must-see, the best part of the movie was Olaf, a fully alive and witty snowman. Olaf brought comic relief to a movie that, at times, could potentially have been frightening for young children. One such event occurred when an oblivious Olaf sings about his desire to experience his first summer. Olaf also offered good life lessons, but was funny in the way he delivered his advice. Most noteworthy was when he told Anna about true love, stating, “that’s when you put someone else’s needs before your own. You know, like when Kristoff”—Anna’s mountain man love interest—“brought you back here and left you forever.”

In my opinion “Frozen” stands out as Disney’s best recent movie and is surely worth viewing. Count sophomore elementary education major Lala Fornaszewski and senior interdisciplinary major Ashley Fisher among those obsessed: “Frozen just makes our hearts melt, no pun intended. We just can’t ‘Let It Go.’”

Ya Hala: An Exotic Escape in Bridgeton, MO.

By Jessica Clements

“Ya Hala” means “welcome” in Lebanese, and that is the feeling you receive in the Ya-Hala Restaurant Hookah Bar and Lounge located in Bridgeton, MO. From the moment you walk in, the elaborate decorations and Middle Eastern cuisine make you feel like you are in a different world. According to the restaurant’s website, www.yahalastl.com, 35% of the menu is devoted to Lebanese specialties with the rest being Jordanian, Turkish and Syrian foods. However, if you prefer to stick with foods that are more well-known to the typical American, they also have selections such as steak or chicken.

If you want a real taste of the Middle East, stop by on a weekend to see the belly dancer and hear the Arabic music played by the DJ. You can even get up and dance with the belly dancer if you think

you are skilled enough. Join others on the dance floor after your meal and have a night to remember. If you are already planning what you want to do for the next New Year’s Eve, Ya-Hala helps you bring in the New Year with a party of their own, complete with a belly dancer, a DJ, dancing and a Ney player (an instrument similar to a flute).

I had the chance to attend Ya-Hala’s New Year’s Eve party this year. It was a new experience for me, but it was a lot of fun. The dancing, music, great food and friendly staff really make you feel comfortable in the unfamiliar surroundings. All the loud noise and different languages could be a culture shock to some, but it is definitely worth trying. If you are ever in the St. Louis area, especially on the weekend, you should stop by Ya-Hala for an evening you won’t soon forget.



PHOTO BY BRAJESHWAR OINAM

Along with their Lebanese cuisine, Ya Hala also has hookahs (like the one pictured above) for guests to use while visiting the restaurant.

## Concealed Carry - Is it Worth it?

By Jessica Clements

On July 9, 2013, Illinois became the last state to pass a law approving concealed carry. Some local residents, such as Jason LeMarr, owner of LeMarr Plumbing Inc. in Carlinville, are for Concealed Carry and against strict gun laws. “Less laws on law-abiding citizens cause less gun crimes,” said LeMarr. However, there are also residents who are concerned, such as Associate Director of Admissions Justin Norwood who mentioned “the sense of paranoia needed in order to feel comfortable only by having a concealed weapon, and then arming said person with a firearm.” I personally believe that participating in concealed carry is a good idea to prepare for cases of self-defense. However, after looking at the hurdles Illinois residents have to jump through, it looks as though the Concealed Carry Act could be a waste of time.

The regulations appear to make sense at first, as the holder would have to be 21 years old, never convicted of a crime and currently not on a wanted list. The issue arises when looking into the process each person is required to go through to get their concealed carry license, and how restricted it is. Is it really worth it?

One thing you need is a F.O.I.D. (Firearm Owner Identification) card. Illinois is the only state that requires F.O.I.D. for buying or possessing firearms or ammunition. This is different from, let’s say, Missouri, where all you need to purchase a firearm is your driver’s license and a quick background check (no background check for ammunition). But in Illinois, you need that F.O.I.D. card to do just about anything involving firearms.

Next, one will be required to perform a fingerprint

scan at an approved livescan location, and provide a picture of themselves that was taken no more than 30 days prior to filling out the application. If you do not get your fingerprints submitted, the Illinois State Police will have to do a manual background check which will delay license delivery by 30 days (on top of the regular 90 day timeframe).

Finally, 16 hours worth of approved training is required. This class has to be taken before you can submit your application and \$150 fee, all of which will get you a Concealed Carry License good for 5 years. Personally, I find this to be a lot of work to carry a handgun in only a few places, considering that only a handful of states recognize an Illinois Concealed Carry License as of now, and hardly any establishments allow a concealed firearm. It is even worse if you have a Concealed Carry License in another state and think you can come to Illinois with it. Illinois does not recognize any other state’s Concealed Carry License.

So, before you consider getting a F.O.I.D card or a Concealed Carry License in Illinois, I advise you to look up other states’ requirements to see if they recognize your Concealed Carry license. You may be surprised what you find out.



PHOTO BY MORGUEFILE

In order to be able to legally have a conceal carry firearm in Illinois, residents are required to jump through a variety of legal hoops, making many wonder if the hassle is worth the reward.

## That’s Soooooo 2013

By Rachael Lancey

New year, new me, right? Wrong. Why set yourself up for failure by making unrealistic goals on the first day of the year when you should strive to do your best every day? Although I don’t believe in New Year’s resolutions, I think the start of a new year is a good time to leave certain trends behind. These are some trends that should not be welcomed into 2014.

**Bitstrips:** This trend ended almost as fast as it started. But there are still a handful of people who can’t seem to let these go. It’s easy to look past an annoying status update, but you can’t avoid the daily cartoonized versions of your friends in not-so-humorous situations. Facebook is still being haunted with these. It’s time to delete the Bitstrips app.

**Hating on Miley Cyrus:** Miley had some less than tasteful moments last year to say the least. But you have to give her credit for pushing the limits with her clothes, hair, music and behavior and not caring what people think of her. Give Miley a chance this year. I think she definitely has

a method to her madness.

**Twerking:** Don’t get me wrong, if you know how to do it, don’t hold back. But we need a new dance craze—preferably one that we won’t be ashamed to tell our grandchildren about one day. Perhaps Miley Cyrus can redeem her VMA performance and be the one to start the new move.

**Kimye:** It’s not a crime to have “Keeping Up With The Kardashians” as your guilty pleasure, but if you find yourself knowing more about Kim and Kanye’s baby than what is going on in the rest of world, that’s a problem. Don’t get wrapped up in celebrity gossip. Instead, learn more about what will affect your own life and download news apps on your phone to stay informed on a wider variety of topics.

**Facebook Drama:** We are guilty of turning to social media to share a little too much information, especially at a small school like Blackburn. Think about who will see your posts and what affect they might have on your reputation. Don’t use your status as a

cry for help or to start a fight with someone. Utilize privacy settings and keep your private life private.

**American Idol:** With season 13 recently beginning, the show has definitely overstayed its welcome. With newer shows like “The Voice” taking off, it is clear that “American Idol” has not changed enough over the years to remain entertaining. Even with a new set of judges it’s obvious the show is desperately hanging on and it’s time for it to come to an end.



PHOTO BY KIMMY VAN BOOM

Among other things, hating on Miley Cyrus is one of the things Lancey recommends leaving behind in 2014.

# Opinion & Forum

## If Ya Wrote It, Then Ya Shoulda Put Your Name on It

By Waley Helch (A.K.A. Haley Welch)



PHOTO BY VICTOR HANACEK

Is using a pen name ethical? Should papers publish a piece written under a false name? Let us know what you think at burian@blackburn.edu.

Most journalists realize when they write a story there is always a chance for controversy. It is part of the job, especially for those of us who choose to write reviews or opinion pieces. You learn to expect the controversy that may ensue with any strong opinion you publish, and you take it with your head held high. You should not write a story unless you are willing to stand behind it, and you most certainly do not use a pen name when spouting your beliefs. Why? Because in the field of journalism there is really only one situation that warrants using a pen name; the information you are publishing is for the good of humanity and releasing said information may cause someone to sucker punch you. If you are not writing to save society as we know it and risking your life in the process, utilizing a pen name is the equivalent of a hit-and-run. In short, it is being a chicken.

In my opinion, Blackburn professor of 25 years Dr. Ren Draya hid behind her pen name when she wrote her most recent theater review. After a 20-year hiatus from writing reviews, Draya rekindled her passion for writing about theater by reviewing the Summer Repertory Theatre production “Willy Wonka.” Published in the Carlinville newspaper “The Enquirer Democrat,” Draya utilized

her pen name Ardie Moore (which she has previously utilized when writing reviews) to express her dissatisfaction with some of the aspects of the production. When asked why she chose to whip out the ole’ pen name, Draya said, “I’ve written reviews for a number of years, and the last time I did one for this paper I had used Ardie Moore, and lots of writers do that, particularly if they write in different fields.” Okay, then. So “lots” of writers do that. I’ve also heard “lots” of people do crystal meth, but as Fat Amy from the hit film “Pitch Perfect” would say, “Mmm...better not.”

As if utilizing a pen name wasn’t enough to make the piece a little iffy, some sections of the review could be deemed nothing less than cringe worthy. One low blow in particular being Draya’s comment that 10-year-old William Roark (who played Charlie Bucket) is a “lightweight singer.” Ouch. Why didn’t you tell him Santa isn’t real while you were at it, too?

But, alas, this is America and each of us does have the right through the First Amendment to make children cry and crush their dreams. However, if you are going to do so, at least put your real name on the article so the kid can tee-pee your house next Halloween. But Draya did not do this, and only disclosed her identity in a letter to the newspaper AFTER angry reactions to her piece were published as letters to the editor. While Draya said her identity was not a mystery in her response letter, I have to wonder why she simply did not use her real name in the first place.

So, as Thumper from “Bambi” would say, “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.” And if you do say something mean, use your real name. Your mama gave it to you for a reason.

Dawes Gets a Facelift

By Jake DeRousse

Those entering Dawes this semester probably have noticed changes to the lobby and hallway areas. The changes, which were completed in December, included moving the Hall of Fame plaques from the lobby to the hallway, adding new furniture to the lobby featuring the new Beaver logo and repainting the walls to a neutral gray instead of the sickly yellow color they previously were. The redecoration is the first step in a larger plan by Athletic Director Angie Morenz to completely revamp Dawes. In the future, plans could also include making changes to the exercise room and utilizing the old pool area.

Redecorating the lobby serves two main purposes: providing a hangout spot for current athletes and a place for coaches to meet with recruits on their campus visits. The plan is to add an anchored TV to the wall in the lobby, and allow the area to be a spot for team bonding or a crossover where members of the different sports teams at Blackburn can interact to

form a closer sports program as a whole. Morenz says, “The Athletic Department needed a more functional space, one that would attract people to our lobby, not repel them. With the changes, hopefully current student-athletes will stop and use the space more.”

Probably the biggest impact of the new look in Dawes is that it gives coaches a place to bring potential players. In the past, coaches would have to bring their recruits into their offices or walk around campus with them. As Morenz states, the new furniture provides

a place where “coaches can take [recruits] while visiting, someplace comfortable and big enough to accommodate their family.” Students may like to make disparaging comments about the state of the facilities at Blackburn, but even the harshest BC bashers could not find a flaw in the new renovations. The change helps make the building look more inviting, and will help improve the sports programs. The remodeling of Dawes could be the first step in a better Blackburn.



PHOTO BY AURORA GRIMMETT  
After much hard work, Dawes now has a new look. Complete with new furniture and a fresh coat of paint, the lobby is ready to serve as a hangout for athletes and recruits.

Baseball Preview

By Aaron Moody

It is no longer acceptable to say the Blackburn College Baseball Team is “rebuilding.” The days of developing talent, gaining experience and familiarizing themselves with the system that head coach Mike Neal has established are gone. Now is a time of production, execution and, most important of all, winning.

“That first practice is the start of a plan where our actions will speak louder than words,” explains senior shortstop Franklin Bush. “The pieces are here, the talent is here and the passion is here. There is no reason why this group of guys shouldn’t be playing in the conference tournament while being a threat to win it.” Bush leads a team that looks to

bounce back from falling one win short of the postseason.

Joining him is reigning St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Most Valuable Player, Donny Fuhrhop. Alongside them is a potent Beaver lineup returning four hitters who each hit above .340 last season. That alone would be impressive if not for the fact that these are the first four hitters in the lineup. Matt Mokriakow (.342), Cody Flowers (.349), Franklin Bush (.359) and Donny Fuhrhop (.386) were the driving force for a team that hit .287 collectively; a drastic improvement over a 2012 team that finished dead last in the SLIAC in batting average.

“To get immediate

production from your lineup is a huge advantage. It’s a headache for the opposing pitcher without a doubt,” said junior shortstop Ben Beckwith.

Yet it’s more than just talent in the batter’s box. Coach Neal described this group as one of the most athletic teams in the conference while also being the “fastest team” he has ever had at Blackburn. Speed plays an important role for a team that only committed 63 errors in 2013, which was second fewest in the SLIAC. Solid defensive play will be crucial for a Blackburn team that doesn’t boast a staff of strikeout pitchers.

“It’s really nice. There is less pressure knowing that I have other guys that will bail me out of trouble if I make a mistake on the mound,” said junior pitcher/infielder Vinnie Birk. Pitching to contact also keeps the pitch count down, which allows guys to go deeper into games and is less taxing on the rest of the staff.

The Beavers began their season with practices on Jan. 26. They play their first game on Feb. 22 against Birmingham Southern in Birmingham, Alabama.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AARON MOODY  
The Blackburn Beavers are getting ready to start their spring 14 season with their first game on Feb. 22

SLIAC Player of the Week

By Jake DeRousse

The basketball programs at Blackburn are having rough seasons overall, but there have been some bright individual moments on the women’s team. Junior Ciara Morgan has already been the SLIAC women’s basketball player of the week twice this season, and on Dec. 30 the SLIAC announced that junior forward Briana Rae joined Morgan as a Blackburn student to receive recognition as the conference’s player of the week.

The Beavers played only one game in the week and lost in an out-of-conference game against Linfield, OR on Dec. 29, but Rae had a monster game. With 23 points on 11-23 shooting and 15 rebounds, including 10 offensive rebounds, Rae did all she could to help the team. She also was able to tie for the team lead in steals with three.

On the season Rae is averaging 13.7 points per



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAKE DEROUSSE  
Bri Rae was selected as the SLIAC player of the week on Dec. 30

game and 10.7 rebounds per game, good for second and first on the team respectively. Rae also currently leads the SLIAC in rebounds per game, and is one of only three players in the conference to be averaging a double-double on the season.

In an interview with Franklin Bush, Rae stated that “[this award] means a lot. I’ve been playing for three years now and it just shows that all of my hard work is actually paying off.”

Local Gym Facilities

By Michelle Lee

In a town as rural as Carlinville, there are not many accessible fitness centers or health clubs. In terms of meeting the needs of Blackburn students, each facility ranks differently in equipment, hours, cost and distance.

Snap Fitness

**Location:** 276 N. Broad St. between Family Video and Dollar General

**Hours:** Open 24 hours/day, 7 days/week

**Cost:** A student membership costs \$30/month with an additional one-time card key purchase of \$10.

**Equipment:** Cardio equipment, free weights, strength training machines

**Amenities:** None

**Contact Info:** 217-854-4006, www.snapfitness.com

BodyFit

**Location:** 935 E. Morgan Street

**Hours:** Monday-Thursday 4:00am-10am, weekend hours vary

**Cost:** A student membership costs \$35/month, but they offer a summer special: \$90 for three months.

**Equipment:** Cardio equipment, free weights, strength training machines

**Amenities:** There are weekly classes ranging from yoga to high-intensity boot camp. Personal training and tanning are available for an additional cost.

**Contact Info:** 217-854-2000, bodyfitcarlinville.com

Lake Williamson

**Location:** 17280 Lakeside Drive

**Hours:** Open 24 hours/day, 7 days/week

**Cost:** A monthly membership costs \$30/month.

**Equipment:** Cardio equipment, free weights, strength training machines, multiple gyms

**Amenities:** There are racquetball courts and an indoor pool available for use.

**Contact Info:** (800) 500-5922, lakewilliamson.org

Blackburn College’s Dawes Athletic Center

**Location:** Blackburn College campus

**Hours:** When not scheduled for events, the gym is available for student use. Check posted time for the weight room.

**Cost:** No additional charge for students

**Equipment:** Cardio equipment, free weights, strength training machines, gymnasium

**Amenities:** There are racquetball courts and locker rooms available upon request.

**Contact Info:** 217-854-3231, blackburnbeavers.com

However, Blackburn may be looking towards some upgrades. Director of Athletics Angie Morenz said, “...What we’d like to do is fill in the pool and turn it into one cohesive fitness center. We are part of the capital campaign for the college [to generate funds], which could last for 6-10 years so it could be 10 years before we turn [the pool] into a fitness center.”