

Vol. 17 No. 1

Blackburn College News Since 1881

Sept. 2017

## ALL COLLEGE CONVOCATION



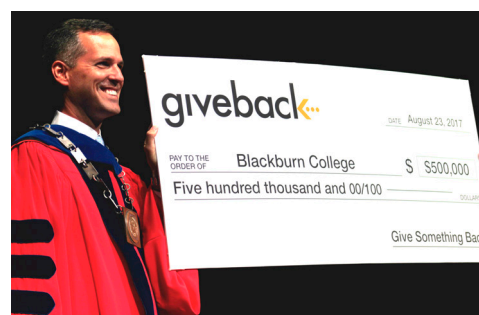
## RAINFORD NAMED STUDENT MARSHAL

PHOTOS BY CANDACE POLLOCK

August 23 was an exciting day for the Blackburn College community, marking the start of classes for the 2017 fall semester and the first congregation of the Blackburn community for the annual All College Convocation. The convocation began with the traditional procession of faculty and staff, while Dr. See Tsai Chan performed a piano accompaniment. Following the invocation by Dr. Carter Aikin, Dr. Mark Armstrong welcomed the Blackburn community and introduced each faculty and staff member present. President John Comerford introduced keynote speaker Dr. Robert Carr who—in addition to sharing his life story and words of encouragement with the audience—renewed Blackburn's Give Something Back scholarship program. The convocation closed with the tapping of senior professional writing major Shelby Rainford as the new Student Marshal.



The college choir singing the Blackburn Hymn



Dr. Comerford is presented with a check for \$500,000 from the Give Something Back Foundation



Student Marshal Shelby Rainford makes her way to the podium while receiving a standing ovation

## ALL-ACADEMIC ATHLETES



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# Unification Against Hatred

By Christopher Stahl  
Staff Writer

"It was really important to have a space for the college community to gather together as one to show their solidarity against what happened in Charlottesville. Against racism, bigotry, hate of all kind. I think it's really important for us to come together against hate of all kind," said Director of Diversity, Student Success and Inclusion Eda Watts. On Aug. 11, in Charlottesville, Virginia, a group gathered in a "Unite the Right" rally. On the second day of the rally, a vehicle going at high speed slammed into counterprotesters, killing one and wounding 19 others.

Since then, many have spoken out against what happened on that day, such as Illinois State Sen. Tammy Duckworth, Vermont State Sen. Bernie Sanders and Arizona State Sen. John McCain. Throughout the U.S., vigils and services were held for the deceased counterprotester, Heather Heyer, and against hate itself. Because of these recent events, Blackburn held a Solidarity Against Hate event. The event was an opportunity for the

Blackburn community to come together to represent their unity and to help put at ease every student on campus who feels threatened by hatred in the U.S.

Watts did not want to have this service cater to a specific religion, but rather "to have college students gather together as one to show their unity against hate." People who spoke at the event included Blackburn College President Dr. John Comerford, the Chair of Philosophy and Religion Dr. Carter Aikin and many students, faculty and staff members that wanted to.

The event began with Aikin speaking to the attendees about rallying together against hatred, calling out the conservative protesters in Charlottesville and labeling them white supremacists. Aikin ended with a closing prayer. Comerford, following Aikin's speech, compared how these past few weeks have shown the best and the worst in humanity - the best being the help of volunteers after Hurricane Harvey, and the worst being the events in Charlottesville. Watts and some students then read poetry to the audience. Afterwards, many students approached the front and spoke out against hate.



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER STAHL

President Comerford speaks at the Solidarity Against Hate event

Watts hoped that every student on campus felt welcomed, and she has plans to react if something of this magnitude happens again. When asked what she will do if anyone feels threatened on campus, she replied, "By letting everyone on campus, and if we can, off campus, know that intolerable

behavior, bullying, harassment of any sort is not tolerated at all. And that should communicate that if that's even a thought, that you are wanting to move into action, then we are ready to take action." She wants every person on and off campus to know that "we all have voices" and those voices can be heard.

## A Trip Around the World: BC Students take STL



PHOTO BY ASHLEY THOMPSON

By Ashley Thompson  
Staff Writer

On Aug. 27, Blackburn College took a group of students to attend the Festival of Nations in St. Louis, Missouri. After a week of welcoming the new students to the college, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, along with the Office of Student Engagement, attended the Festival of Nations. This event gave students the opportunity to experience the region's largest multicultural event of the year.

The International Institute of St. Louis held the two-day festival in Tower Grove Park on the south side of St. Louis. Over 40 different nations from five different continents were represented. There were food booths where attendees could experience a taste of the different cultures from around the world. There was also a World Bazaar that had 34 booths from around the world where attendees could shop for some unique gifts from the different countries.

If shopping and food was not enough, visitors had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of entertainment. The festival provided

visitors with different forms of entertainment on three stages located throughout the park. The Forest stage hosted ethnic performances from many different nations each hour. The Grand stage was the host of some bands mixed with singers and dancers. The World Music stage showcased a mix of traditional and modern bands from around the world. Along with the stage performances, there were demonstrations for different ethnic dances on the Village Green. Here festival goers were encouraged to participate in learning some of the dances that were showcased on the main stages.

In an email about the festival, Director of Diversity, Student Success and Inclusion Eda Watts stated, "I had the pleasure of joining in on the fun, and let me tell you, it was truly a globally wonderful experience. Turkish coffee, Bolivian delights and Malaysian treats were just a few of the many food choices available to festival goers. The aroma was wonderful, and the array of cultural dance performances was amazing."

Entrance to the Festival of Nations event in St. Louis, Missouri



PHOTOS BY KARISSA COONROD



By Karissa Coonrod  
Staff Writer

# Jaenke Alumni Center

## WHAT'S INSIDE

The little pieces of the past that bind Blackburn College together make it very special, but not everyone knows the whole story.

The Jaenke Alumni Center actually used to be the main building on campus for visitors and students alike. It served a similar role played by the Demuzio Campus Center (DCC) today. Before DCC was constructed in 2002, the Jaenke Alumni Center was commonly

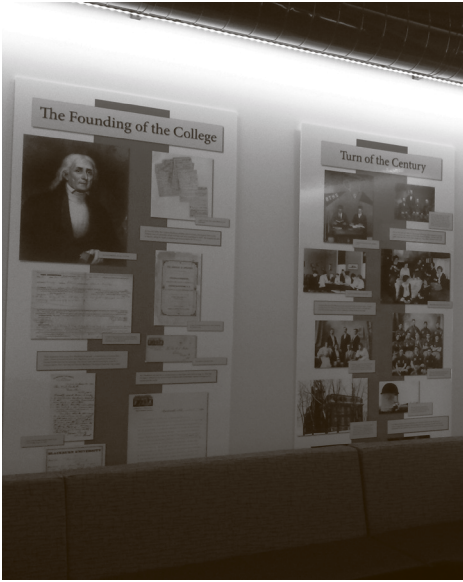
referred to as “The Den.” However, once DCC was built, “The Den” fell into disuse.

Due to donations by alumni, the center got the renovations it deserved and was fully refurbished by last year’s homecoming.

Now the campus community can view the newly updated historical

exhibits. On the walls of the Alumni Center hang long posters with photos from the past and the stories behind them. However, the posters currently on the walls are not permanent and will be updated to more accurately reflect Blackburn College’s diverse history. According to Alumni Relations Coordinator Stephen Yearson, many students have not yet been in the building to observe these historical displays. He wishes to get the word of welcome out to not only the student body but all guests. Yearson believes the experience would be an enriching opportunity for anyone who would be interested in stopping by and seeing the fascinating history of Blackburn.

The Alumni Center has an open house event the first Wednesday of every month where any visitors are welcome. Yearson recommends attending to meet other people. “The main point of it is to let people know



that this is an open space for them to use,” he said. Food and drinks will be provided each meeting. It would be an opportunity to get to know more people around the area, all while appreciating the history of Blackburn College.



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PHOTOS BY GARY LOWDER



## Do you support the removal of Confederate statues?



"I do support their removal. Most of them were erected in the mid 1900s. That coincides with beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement and the reasoning behind them was to oppress black people and remind them of slavery. There is no historical argument for preserving them when they are fairly modern, and the purpose behind them is inherently racist."

**Henry Muhlena**  
sophomore  
justice administration major

"The way I see it, a lot of people would compare it to Germany. Germany has no Nazi statues because it has a racist history. So why do we have to keep up the statues that stand for racism, slavery and the systemic oppression of an entire group of people? I think they need to get rid of all of them."

**Sebastian Hitzelburger**  
junior  
communications major



"If it helps us get better as a society, then yes. If it helps people become more comfortable in an area that they live in, then yes. It's history, but it's bad history."

**Darian Jackson**  
freshman  
sports management major



"...It's tearing down history. If you want to petition somebody to remove the statue, or if you own it and decide to take it down that's alright, but they shouldn't be torn down. I'm not saying anymore should be erected, but if you are passing the statue with your kids or whatever it's a great reminder about how far America has come and how beautiful it is now."

**Dylan Newell**  
sophomore  
business major



# BLACKBURN 2.0



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALLISON WILLIAMS

Blackburn alumna Allison Williams' third grade classroom is decked out in Blackburn gear

**By Sara Hyneman**  
Staff Writer

The room is decked in familiar black, red and white. Stylistic beaver heads adorn the walls, and stuffed beavers can be spotted around. One wall proudly reads "work program" and features prominent jobs and those who are assigned to them. The classroom isn't found in Carlinville. In fact, it's not even in Illinois. The classroom is in Arizona and belongs to a third-grade class taught by Allison Williams.

Williams graduated from Blackburn in 2014. She finished with an intense love of Blackburn, especially the work program, and what it had given to her in terms of experience and work skills. She wanted to pass that experience to her students. She emulated the decor of Blackburn with red, white and black decorations, images of Buzz the Beaver and stuffed beavers. Most importantly, though, she adapted the work program to her classroom, assigning each student a position within the classroom.

Over email, Williams said that the children are benefiting; they are learning how their work affects others and how their skills can be put to use. "Giving third graders a responsibility in the classroom also makes them more accountable for their actions," she said. And the kids are fans, too. "They absolutely LOVE everything about the classroom," Williams said. "They think Blackburn is super cool and they want to go visit!"

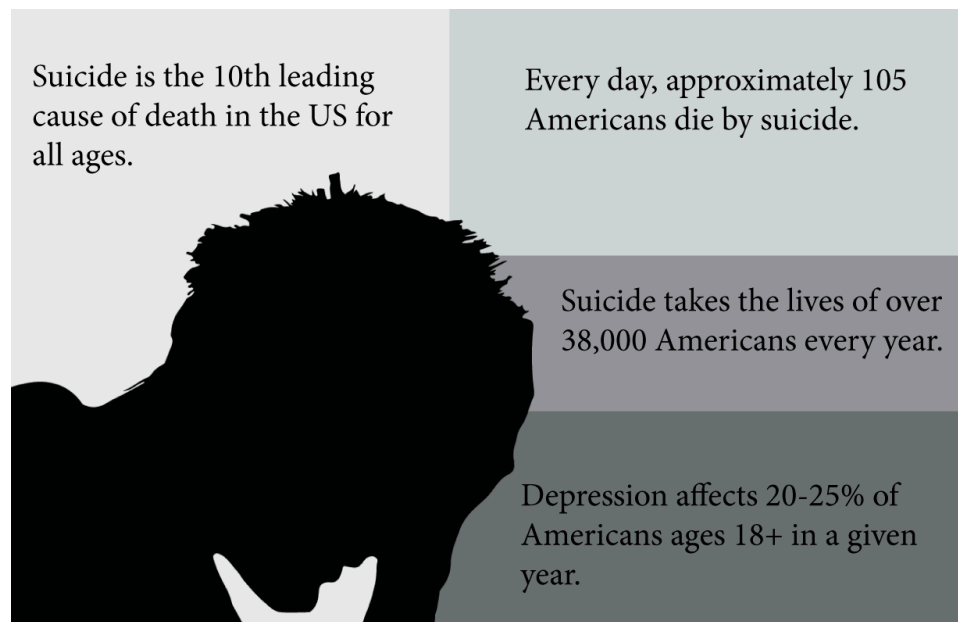
The work program is the part of Blackburn that Williams most enjoys integrating into the classroom, and she's incorporated as many unique Blackburn jobs as she can. Student Managers are table captains, the admissions crew helps Williams directly, food service cleans up breakfast and lunch and the bookstore keeps the classroom library in order. She also has substituted traditional call and response chants with a shout of "Blackburn!" to which students reply with "Beavers!" Students who perform well can even earn the right to keep a Barney the Beaver plush on their desk for a week.

She wanted her students to experience the growth she did, "My students...already have so much pride in the classroom because of the jobs and the responsibility. The goal at the end of the year is to have students carry over these skills into their real life and into the next years of their schooling."

Williams' parents and grandparents all attended Blackburn, and she wanted a change from her enormous high school, so attending seemed natural. She loved the small class sizes and the ease of communication, but it wasn't perfect. "There were no Starbucks in town!" At times, the school felt almost too small; everyone knew everybody, something she was unused to. Ultimately, though, she enjoyed attending—enough to dedicate her classroom to the school.



# HOW YOU CAN PREVENT SUICIDE



GRAPHIC BY JOHN HUMMER  
INFORMATION BY CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

**By Rachel Burke**  
Staff Writer

Sept. 10 through Sept. 16 is National Suicide Prevention Week. According to The National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH), “40,000 people die by suicide each year in the United

States.” Although we should always be aware of the effects of suicide, this is an especially relevant time to remind everyone of the signs, risk factors and how you can help prevent suicide.

The NIMH emphasizes that “Suicidal thoughts or actions are a sign

of extreme distress, not a harmless bid for attention, and should not be ignored.” The most obvious sign to look out for is when people talk about being in inescapable emotional pain. A more subtle sign would be an increase in their use of alcohol or drugs.

People can be more at risk of suicidal thoughts if they have a family history of suicide or mental illness. Other risk factors include being abused or being exposed to others’ suicidal behavior.

If you know someone that is suffering from these thoughts, there are steps you can take to help. The first step is asking them about it and getting them to be open instead of keeping it a secret. Listen to what they have to say and make sure they know they are being heard. Stay connected with them, and give them little opportunity to be and feel alone. Director of Counselling Services Tim Morenz stressed that the best way to help is to take the national course, “Mental Health First-Aid.” It costs \$4.99, and gives the “training that [you] will need, not as a professional, to

assess for suicidal ideation, listen non-judgmentally and to encourage self and professional help.”

If you know you are struggling with depression, there are also lifestyle changes you can make before it gets to the point of suicidal thoughts. Morenz said, “20 minutes of sustained aerobic exercise plus 20 minutes of unfiltered outside light exposure provide the same boost in serotonin as most antidepressants.” Healthy changes in your diet and sleep schedule can also help.

If you are suffering with suicidal thoughts and behaviors, the suicide hotline number is 800-273-8255, and the text line is 741741. Specifically for members of the LGBT community, you can call The Trevor Project’s suicide hotline, 866-488-7386.

There are services at Blackburn where you can get help, like the Blackburn College Support System. It is an app that you can download called 7 Cups: Anxiety and Stress Chat. It’s a free anonymous listening service you can use as needed.

# BEAVER NATION'S RADIO STATION

**By Kodey Price**  
Contributing Writer

Recently on the Blackburn College campus, efforts have been made to expand the reach of Blackburn Radio’s podcasts. Blackburn Radio co-manager Ally Fowler has been leading this effort.

Fowler noted the station had only been in operation for five years and still has developing to do. “The biggest part is that we don’t advertise enough, but this year we are looking to change that,” she said. The station is not played live on the air but through a program called Backbone, which is an internet radio streaming service. The station can be heard on the Tune-In radio app or website.

Some students aren’t even aware that there is a Blackburn radio station, let alone that there are seven different DJs who each have their own shows. Each podcast features varying kinds of music and shows ranging from the school’s sports teams to movie soundtracks to alternative rock. “I thought it was pretty cool. I was surprised when I learned we had one,” said freshman Secondary Education major Reed Burnell. He continued, “Now that I know about it, I



Blackburn Radio’s office in Bothwell

PHOTO BY KODEY PRICE

might have to give it a listen.”

Few places on campus actually play Blackburn Radio shows, although there are many buildings that could including the Demuzio Campus Center and the Dining Hall (Ding). Fowler recently

spoke with Ding manager Layna Broux about the possibility playing the radio podcasts during lunch and dinner times. “The work program should work together in that sense,” said Broux who supported the idea. She also noted

that the student work at the Blackburn Radio is underappreciated because of a lack of knowledge that it exists.

\*The author of this article works for Blackburn Radio



# The 'Burnian Remembers Thomas



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEJA BELL



Barksdale with his family


**By Gary Lowder**  
*Senior Writer*

Over the summer, the Blackburn campus community was shocked to learn about the death of student Thomas Barksdale. Barksdale was a junior history major and physical plant worker who was always very good-natured and liked by everyone.



Barksdale was from Gillespie and came to Blackburn in 2014. His quiet and easy-going disposition was

comfortable for those who knew him and a welcome change of pace for those who didn't. Barksdale was a member of grounds crew, and by all accounts, he loved his job. Former Physical Plant supervisor Jack Bettis said, "Tom was a great asset to the grounds department, and more so, a great friend and coworker to all who had contact with him. To this day, when I drive past campus, I catch myself looking for him on a mower. I probably always will." This was something most friends and

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# Barksdale



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVELYN TIMPE BARKSDALE

colleagues mentioned. Thomas loved the campus, and he loved making it look presentable. “He was like an artist on that lawn mower,” said history professor and Barksdale’s advisor Gary Long, “he could make it turn around anything, very sharply. He would step into other people’s shifts just to cut the grass. He seemed to always be working on campus....”

Senior communications major Deja Bell said, “He loved this place from the moment he got here... I remember he

worked at Snack Bar in his first semester here, but he switched to grounds crew after working there over a break. He fell in love with it. You could always see him driving around mowing, usually with a f---in’ huge vape cloud behind him,” she laughed, “That was like his place, he loved to mow. If he wasn’t in class, he was working or playing pool.” She concluded, “He had a massive love for this place, even when times were hard for him.” Barksdale’s mother, Evelyn Timpe Barksdale, agreed and

said, “Thomas said his friends there were like family to him. The best times he ever had were there.”

Barksdale’s family didn’t have insurance and couldn’t afford to give Thomas a proper funeral and burial by themselves. The family started a GoFundMe page in order to buy Barksdale a headstone and a proper funeral. Many Blackburn students, staff and faculty donated, or shared the link to the page. Barksdale’s mother said, “... It meant a lot to us that so many people cared

and loved him,” she continued, “Thank you for the love and support for my son Thomas. I’m so glad he touched so many people’s lives. He always wanted to make a difference in the world and make it better. He wanted to be loved and give love and just wanted to be happy. Thank you all very much.”

“I’ll always love him,” said Bell. “He was great, laid back, really funny. He would always cheer you up, even if you didn’t want to be. He was just a really genuinely good person.”



# THE BUTTERFLY AND THE VIOLIN

## Senior Lisa Knight Adapts Popular Novel for the Stage

By Gary Lowder  
Staff Writer

Tragedy, drama and romance aren't typically what comes to mind when one thinks of senior seminars. Seminars may be tedious to make, but they are always enjoyable to watch. Presentations act as a closing to four years of hard work and dedication, and usually represents at least a year of research and design. It's stressful to say the least. Take this stress and then add to it the pressure of adapting someone else's popular novel for the stage and you'll find yourself in the shoes of senior musical theater major Lisa Knight.

Knight has written and is currently auditioning for her adaptation of Kristy Cambron's historical novel "The Butterfly and the Violin" to be presented in the winter. "The Butterfly and the Violin" takes place in 1942 and follows the story of Austrian aristocrat and violinist Adele Von Bron; an heiress and daughter of a high-ranking Third Reich. Her noble birth and talent

with the violin ensure that she wants for nothing. However, Adele risks it all when she begins smuggling Jews out of Vienna. She is subsequently caught and her life of luxury dissolves around her into the hellish concentration camps of the Holocaust.

Knight explained how she began the process: "I read this book and loved it. I finished it in one day. I knew that I wanted to play the main character but I also knew that I couldn't," she laughed. "So instead I decided I would adapt it into a show."

Initially Knight was unsure how to proceed. "It seemed like a lot of work," she laughed. "I talked to Professor [Carolyn] Conover about it, and of course she wanted me to do the larger and harder project."

In adapting the novel to the stage, Knight has run into a classic problem for those who make anything based on a written work. "You know how everybody always says 'The book is better than the movie,'" said Knight,

"That is the main challenge." She went on to discuss how aspects of the novel had to be changed for convenience and that some dialogue was lost in translation. Theater professor Carolyn Conover helped Knight through the writing and revising process. According to Knight, Conover said the phrase, "People don't talk like that," many times before the adaptation was completed.

"I had to contact Kristy Cambron and ask her permission. She was all for it, but had to direct me to her publisher to ask their permission. From there I filled out a bunch of paperwork," said Knight. "One of the conditions is that after I'm done I have to give them a finished copy of the script. It's a little intimidating." Conover agreed and said, "This work has never been dramatized. This really is a world premiere, and it's a world premiere that the author is supporting and wants a copy of. It's very exciting." The first performance of "The Butterfly and the Violin" is



PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

Knight explains her vision to auditioners

scheduled for Dec. 1, with an encore performance the following night.

# A New Face in the English and Communications Department



Dr. Andrews teaches first-year students

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER STAHL

By Christopher Stahl  
Staff Writer

Blackburn has a new visiting professor, Dr. David Andrews. He is here on a one year visiting contract to teach freshman writing classes and a potential literature class in the spring. According to Chair of English & Communications

Dr. Naomi Crummey, "As a teacher, his interest in teaching writing has grown over the last few years. He is very committed to teaching writing." He is an accomplished scholar whose experiences include, but are not limited to, teaching at Loyola University,

University of Illinois Chicago and State University of New York Stony Brook. He graduated from Cornell University with an undergrad degree in history and English and from the University of New York Stony Brook for his Ph.D. in American literature.

Andrews gave a demonstration lesson on revision to the freshmen in a WR 112 with Crummey supervising during the 2017 spring semester. Crummey said, "We were—[Dr. Karen Dillon] and I—particularly impressed by his ability to engage students. A lot of people play it safe when they do a teaching demonstration and get up and involve the students just a little bit." Crummey went on to say Andrews seems "determined to work with students." However, there is a possibility that he will not be able to return for the 2018 fall semester.

Because Andrews is only a visiting professor, he is on a short-term contract to teach here for only a year. Next year, a new tenure-track position will open and any department on campus can apply to add an extra faculty member to their department. Crummey said that he will be able to put his application in, but there is no guarantee that the English & communications department will get it.

Lindsey Malott, one of Andrews's new students, said, "he has a type of motivation when he is teaching." She continued to say that "I am excited to be in class. I think he'll make me a better writer."

Andrews said that he "really likes everybody here" and is excited to work here for this upcoming school year. He has never taught at a school this small and never had a writing assistant at any of his other former places of work.



# REFUSING TO BEFRIEND IGNORANCE

By Sara Hyneman  
Contributing Writer

Conservatives are being cast out. It's a narrative we've seen repeatedly, one which has been echoed in this very newspaper. Conservative voices are stifled by campus liberalism and they live in fear that should they "come out" as conservative, liberal friends may cut them off. One should never let politics dictate friendships, they insist. But what if those politics impact lives?

Take, for example, the Republican stance on LGBT rights. While marriage equality is now federal law, for many years it was not, and it was largely Republicans who lead the charge to keep it so. Donald Trump was the first Republican presidential candidate to openly support gay rights in his campaign, but his running mate, Mike Pence, suggested on his website that the tax money going towards HIV research, which he claims "celebrate[s] and encourage[s] the types of behaviors that facilitate the spreading of the HIV virus," should instead be directed to conversion therapy of gay people and said in 2006 that same-sex marriage signaled "societal collapse." Transgender people are an even bigger target; President Trump recently tweeted that he would begin banning transgender people from the military.

Not all Republicans are transphobic or homophobic, and plenty of Democrats certainly are. But we must acknowledge that the Republican platform has, for generations, positioned itself as the defender of the "traditional family" against the machinations of the

gay and trans people who seek to destroy it; even under Trump, the Republican party platform claimed that it wished to undo the federal ruling on marriage equality, claiming that the "traditional marriage and family, based on marriage between one man and one woman, is the foundation for a free society." So if you tell a gay or trans person that you're Republican, they're going to assume that you've mostly voted Republican. That means that, intentionally or not, you've been voting for people who don't want them to have the same rights as the general populace. Can you fault them for deciding that you're not a person to be close with?

LGBT people aren't the only ones who have to make this choice. If your family could never get health insurance before the Affordable Care Act is it acceptable to support people who want to see it repealed? If you know young people protected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which allowed children of undocumented immigrants to work and live in America, can you remain friends with someone who wants them returned to a country that they've never known and which may be hostile? Do you remain close to someone who's supported people that, at best, view your protections as secondary or, at worst, don't want you to exist? Sometimes that answer has to be no. Choosing not to associate with those with vastly different morals isn't oppression against conservatives. It isn't even unfair. It's just a choice, and, unlike the choice to vote exclusively Republican, does not endanger any vulnerable people's rights.

# DING

## IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER



ILLUSTRATION BY SARA HYNEMAN

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters under 500 words may be sent to burnian@blackburn.edu, or mailed to The ‘Burnian, 700 College Ave., Carlinville, IL 62626.

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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.

PUBLISHER

The Journal-News  
431 S Main St  
Hillsboro, IL 62049

# BLACKBURN BURNOUT

By Noah Daum  
Co-Editor & Art Director

Being a few weeks into the semester, it is no secret that Blackburn students are already struggling to keep up with their workloads. This is a common struggle for all college students, however with Blackburn being a self-proclaimed “work college,” (blackburn.edu/home/a-work-college/) we students are faced with additional challenges. Since Blackburn students are expected to complete both classwork and “keep the college open,” we should at least be given some slack with our homework assignments.

At Blackburn College, full-time students that live on campus are required to

work at least 10 hours a week in the work program. Taking paid hours and additional work positions on top of the required 10 hours into consideration, it is not easy to keep on top of everything. For example, students are often required to read several chapters a night, write multiple-page reflections and print two copies off for participation credit between every class, while also going to work between every class.

According to Complete College America, a nonprofit organization that studies student success, institutions should “incentivize students to attend full-time and ensure that full-time means 15 credits

per semester.” If students are spending 15 credit hours per week in class plus 10 hours in the work program, they are already up to 25 hours a week, without taking into account any additional paid hours, off campus jobs or extra-curriculars.

I'm not saying that our faculty shouldn't give any assignments. My argument is that if Blackburn is going to brand themselves as a "Work College" then the mission should remain true and consistent through all aspects of the institution. That said, if faculty were to ease up on some of the assignments, students can be more successful in all aspects of college life.

# HOPE AFTER HARVEY

By Jordan Wood  
Sports Writer and Layout Assistant

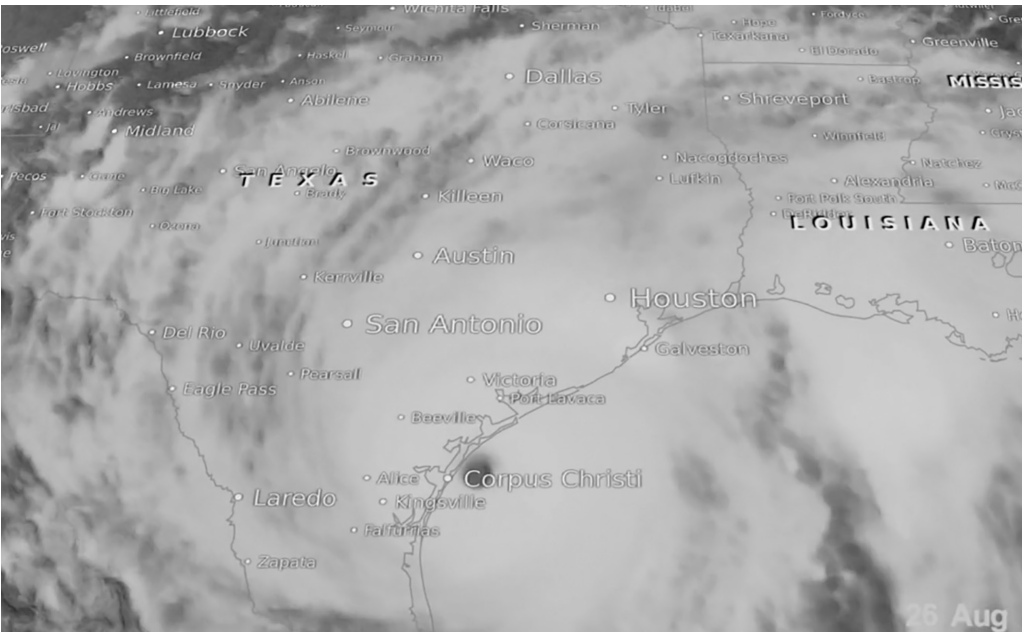
While there are not enough words to describe the true devastation and hurt in my heart brought on by Hurricane Harvey, it did get me thinking about the heart and the pride and the resiliency found at the core of any American.

In the wake of tragedy, one thing is certain: people will come together. In today's world, we are constantly driven apart by our differences. In a lot of cases, we seem to define ourselves by those differences in a negative way whether it be by religion, race, sexuality or any other number of “reasons” people come up with to isolate others. Despite this, I have noticed an exception: tragedies.

When tragedy strikes, all other problems and differences seem to lose some of their importance in order to make helping those in need the top priority. Time and time again, tragedy strikes and the American people are able to see what is truly important: each other. Hurricane Harvey reminded us of just that.

Almost immediately, donation after donation started pouring in. Businesses like Walmart and Walgreens set up collections at registers. Trapped victims of the flood reached out for help. Hundreds, even thousands, responded. Images on numerous social media outlets could be seen pulling their boats behind them, traveling into danger to provide any help that they could. Others found themselves, without hesitation, donating to the Red Cross when checking out at their local grocery store.

Another thing that I have noticed in



Hurricane Harvey as seen on Google Earth

SCREENSHOT BY JORDAN WOOD

the wake of tragedy is the way celebrities react. On most days, we place them on such a high pedestal, almost as if they are a different species entirely, seemingly God-like. Tragedy changes that and Harvey was no different.

Kevin Hart, Miley Cyrus, Matt Carpenter (St. Louis Cardinals), JJ Watt (Houston Texans) and many more donated thousands and then called on others to follow suit. In the time after a disaster such as Hurricane Harvey, no contribution—no matter how small—is too small. The unfortunate part is that many, including myself, do not have a significant amount to offer that can make a major impact. That's exactly where the Hollywood stars come in.

Within days Watt's fund totalled over \$20 million, a fundraiser whose original

goal was just \$200,000 (half of which was donated by Watt himself). But when stars call, people answer. In a report by AccuWeather, Hurricane Harvey is set to be the most destructive and expensive storm in U.S. history, nearing \$190 billion. While \$20 million will not be near enough to restore the area to its previous state, it is more than enough to bring people hope.

It's times like this and stories such as these that restore my faith and hope for humanity. When I hear updates on totals of donations, I can't stop the tears that form in my eyes. With how some celebrities behave, it can be extremely easy to scrutinize them for wasting their opportunity to be a positive influence. But again, tragedies bring out the best of all of us, if only we could display those qualities all of the time.



Beaver Break is sponsored by the Blackburn College Office of Student Engagement & CAB



EVENTS:

**Saturday, Sept. 16** - We will be heading out to the Macoupin Art Collective (The MAC) for a painting class. We will depart campus at 2 p.m. and will return by 5 p.m. This will be a class led by a MAC Staff member at their arts and crafts school in Staunton.

**Friday, Sept. 22** - We will have Afro-Latina Slam Poet Elizabeth Acevedo on campus at 7 p.m. in Bothwell Auditorium. She will be reciting poetry that focuses on her life and struggles as a Black Latina American.

**Saturday, Sept. 23** - We will have the first bowling night of the year. Head out to Bowlero Lanes with your student ID for two free games and a shoe rental on CAB. Rides will be provided from DCC Patio at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. Bowling goes from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Crossword

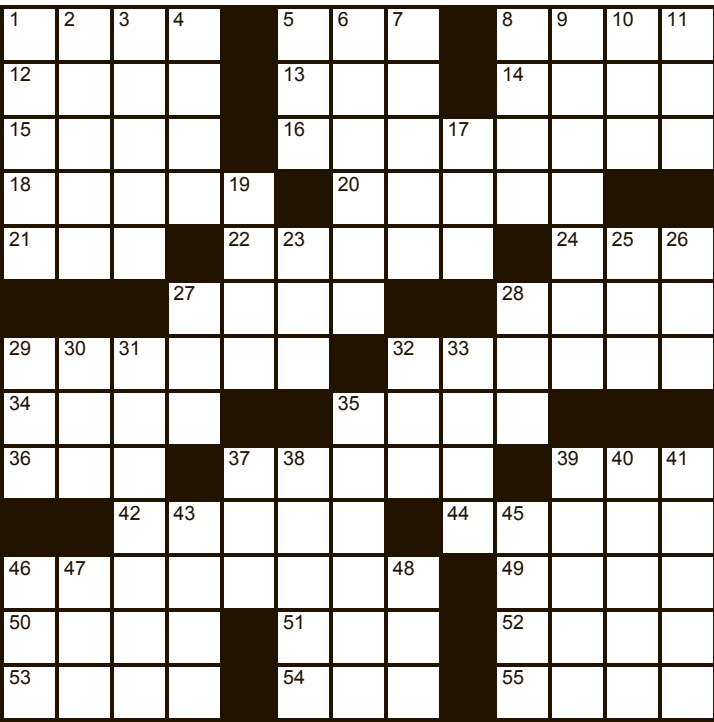
Across

- 1 Kill a fly
- 5 Chill
- 8 And others (Latin)
- 12 Zorba the Greek actress, Kedrova
- 13 Candle leftover
- 14 Storm
- 15 Roots author Haley
- 16 Unfair
- 18 Dismantle
- 20 Crawl
- 21 Presidential inits.
- 22 Speak
- 24 Be obliged
- 27 Intend
- 28 Salad
- 29 Languorous
- 32 The sailor man
- 34 Aerie
- 35 E. Ireland village
- 36 Circulars

- 37 Grown-up
- 39 Empty completely
- 42 Prod
- 44 Dixie
- 46 White shark, for one
- 49 Crown
- 50 Killer whale
- 51 Age
- 52 Sundowns
- 53 Pub feature
- 54 Fast plane (Abbr.)
- 55 Concern

Down

- 1 Cut back
- 2 Droops
- 3 Wary
- 4 Hack
- 5 \_\_\_\_ Jima
- 6 Fr. dance
- 7 Make an effort
- 8 Lake
- 9 Pollywog
- 10 Mature
- 11 Guided
- 17 Envision
- 19 Verse form
- 23 Light beam
- 25 Direction
- 26 Lamb
- 27 Rug
- 28 Watering hole
- 29 Genetic material
- 30 Scarlet
- 31 Nitty-gritty
- 32 Chum
- 33 Morsels
- 35 Radio receivers
- 37 Turk. title
- 38 Showers with love
- 39 Tropical fruit
- 40 Say
- 41 Not those
- 43 Paraphernalia
- 45 World org.
- 46 Throng
- 47 Action word
- 48 Informer



Robin Williams Movies

- 1. In *Good Will Hunting*, where does Sean teach?  
(a) North Hampton Community College (b) Bunker Hill Community College  
(c) Greater Boston Community College
- 2. In what restaurant does Miranda find out who *Mrs Doubtfire* really is?  
(a) Gusteau's (b) Cliff House (c) Bridges
- 3. Who saves Peter after he falls overboard in *Hook*?  
(a) The mermaids (b) Tinkerbell (c) The Lost Boys
- 4. What book do members of the *Dead Poets Society* read from at each meeting?  
(a) Poems of Robert Frost (b) Five Centuries of Verse (c) Poetry for the Sou
- 5. Garp's children's book was going to be named what in *The World According to Garp*?  
(a) A Child's Christmas with a Whale (b) Snow in July (c) Magic Gloves
- 6. In *Good Morning Vietnam*, Ho Chi Minh reminds Adrian of who?  
(a) Charlie Chan (b) Captain Bligh (c) Colonel Sanders
- 7. What did Alan's father teach him in *Jumanji*?  
(a) Last words are for losers (b) Face your fears (c) Never fear
- 8. In what store did Sy used to work in *One Hour Photo*?  
(a) Eckerd's (b) Bargain Mart (c) Savmart
- 9. Parry once had a career as what in *The Fisher King*?  
(a) Professor (b) Journalist (c) Stock Broker
- 10. What does *Patch Adams* wear under his graduation robe?  
(a) Kilt (b) Nothing (c) T shirt and boxers

Sports Sampler

- 1. Who set a MLB record for hitting 18 home runs in his World Series appearances?  
(a) Mickey Mantle (b) Reggie Jackson (c) Duke Snider
- 2. In amateur wrestling, how many points is an 'escape' worth?  
(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 1
- 3. What hockey team won their third Stanley Cup in the 1960-61 season?  
(a) Montreal Expos (b) Chicago Black Hawks (c) Calgary Flames
- 4. Who was the first player in NBA history to score 30,000 points?  
(a) Michael Jordan (b) Karl Malone (c) Wilt Chamberlain
- 5. In what year was the first Major League Soccer season?  
(a) 1996 (b) 1987 (c) 1979
- 6. In 1990, what golfer was the oldest player to win the U.S. Open?  
(a) Hale Irwin (b) Payne Stewart (c) Jack Nicklaus
- 7. When did Hank Aaron break Babe Ruth's home run record?  
(a) May 20, 1971 (b) April 8, 1974 (c) July 7, 1978
- 8. What NFL team was the first to go to a Super Bowl and never score a touch down?  
(a) Minnesota Vikings (b) Washington Redskins (c) Miami Dolphins
- 9. Dick Button was an Olympic champion in what sport?  
(a) Fencing (b) Figure skating (c) Gymnastics
- 10. What MLB manager was the first to win 5 National League pennants?  
(a) John McGraw (b) Connie Mack (c) Walter Alston

Quotes

Drinking makes such fools of people, and people are such fools to begin with, that it's compounding a felony. ~ Robert Benchley

A stockbroker urged me to buy a stock that would triple its value every year. I told him, 'At my age, I don't even buy green bananas.' ~ Claude Pepper

It is a scientific fact that your body will not absorb cholesterol if you take it from another person's plate. ~ Dave Barry

Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear. ~ Ambrose Redmoon

Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he is not, and a sense of humor was provided to console him for what he is. ~ Oscar Wilde



# “Learn. Work. Earn.”

## BC Athletes All In and All Academic

By Jordan Wood

Sports Writer and Layout Assistant

As a Division III student athlete, commitments like classes, homework and studying along with practices and games in addition to work, can be a lot to fit in, and many struggle to find the balance between everything. When an athlete focuses on one area—school, work or athletics—the other two can suffer significantly. It can be a lot of work and at times it may seem nearly impossible to finish, but it's not.



PHOTO BY CANDACE POLLOCK

Jensen Ballinger



PHOTO BY CANDACE POLLOCK

Gariel Pierce

Last spring, four Blackburn student-athletes proved just that by being named to the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic team in their respective spring sports, joining a list of Blackburn alumni that can be found on the Saint Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC) website. These athletes were softball players Hannah Goett and Jensen Ballinger, golfer Kyle Kesinger and tennis player Gariel Pierce.

In her junior season, Goett led the Beavers in on base percentage with a .512 and placed second on the team with a .430 batting average and runs batted in (28).

“It is important to me to achieve it because I’m not only working hard on the field, but also in the classroom... the All-Academic team is a recognition for the hard work all student-athletes

have put in the classroom,” Goett said.

Teammate Ballinger pitched her way to a 9-9 record in nearly 100 innings of work. The battery helped Blackburn to a 13-19 record—a ten win improvement over the previous season.

In his senior season Kesinger was a member of the men’s golf team who placed second in the SLIAC tournament.

While Kesinger and the men’s golf team put together their best season since they became the SLIAC champions in 2011, then-sophomore Pierce competed on the tennis courts as Blackburn’s number two singles player. She also paired with Karlee Brimberry as the college’s top doubles team. “I wasn’t surprised,” admitted Pierce. “I put academics above everything... my parents always told me that my education would take me far. I am here



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Kyle Kesinger

to of course enjoy the college life and play the sports I love, but the goal is to get my degree.”

Not only did these four athletes reach the required 3.5 grade-point average by excelling in the classroom, they also found themselves among the top in their sport, contributing significantly throughout their season.



PHOTO BY CANDACE POLLOCK

Hannah Goett

## HEART OVER HEIGHT

By Jordan Wood

Sports Writer and Layout Assistant

In her first three seasons as a member of the Blackburn women’s volleyball team, Alexis Dick was tested. With a combined record totaling 8-81, the team’s winning percentage sat right under the .100 mark. Not only were the wins hard to come by, so was



PHOTO BY CANDACE POLLOCK

Alexis Dick warms up

a sense of stability for both herself and the team as a whole.

As Dick wrapped up her high school career at De Land-Weldon, her experience was as a defensive specialist and outside hitter—despite her height at just 5 feet 1 inch tall. When her high school senior season concluded, she found herself changing career paths and unable to say goodbye to the game she fell in love with. After all, it had been a major part of her life since she first picked up a ball with some friends back in fifth grade. One change of heart and several conversations with her father later, Dick discovered Blackburn, or rather, Blackburn discovered her.

After registering for Next College Student Athlete—an organization geared towards connecting hopeful college athletes with coaches—Dick received emails from several coaches and schools. The first she received

was from former Blackburn volleyball coach, Suzannah Behnken.

In Dick’s freshman season, with only seven recruited players and a busy schedule, there was significant playing time to go around as she spent most of that time playing outside and middle back. Prior to her sophomore season, Jordan Barton replaced Behnken as head coach. The change in coaching brought in more players, more competition and Dick found herself in a new position at right back. While she would have liked more playing time and a position she was more acquainted with, Dick took it in stride and improved her game.

Yet another coaching change in her junior season and an injury to libero Marlee Lindstrom, led Dick to split her time between middle back and libero. While many athletes would like a sense of stability in their position, Dick used the opportunity to become a more rounded player and craft her skills, both of which can be seen in her play as she begins her senior season as the

team’s libero. It could be easy to see her height as a disadvantage especially in the game of volleyball, but the way in which she plays the game goes beyond any number. Her background as a high school outside hitter and stints in different defensive positions in her college career have developed her and her heart has strengthened her into the instinctual, quick-footed libero who comes out of nowhere to dig out a ball fans, teammates and coaches think there’s no chance for a play on.

Fellow senior Delanie Casto spoke highly of Dick saying, “Lex has always been a teammate that you can rely on. We’ve been through alot with this volleyball program in the past three years and there is no one else I would want standing beside me on the court.” A true leader both on and off the court, Dick is majoring in graphic design with minors in marketing communications, professional writing and business management. She is also the manager of the Administration Department.