

# MACOUP IN PROMISE



PHOTO BY NOAH DAUM

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# REAL RETENTION RATE

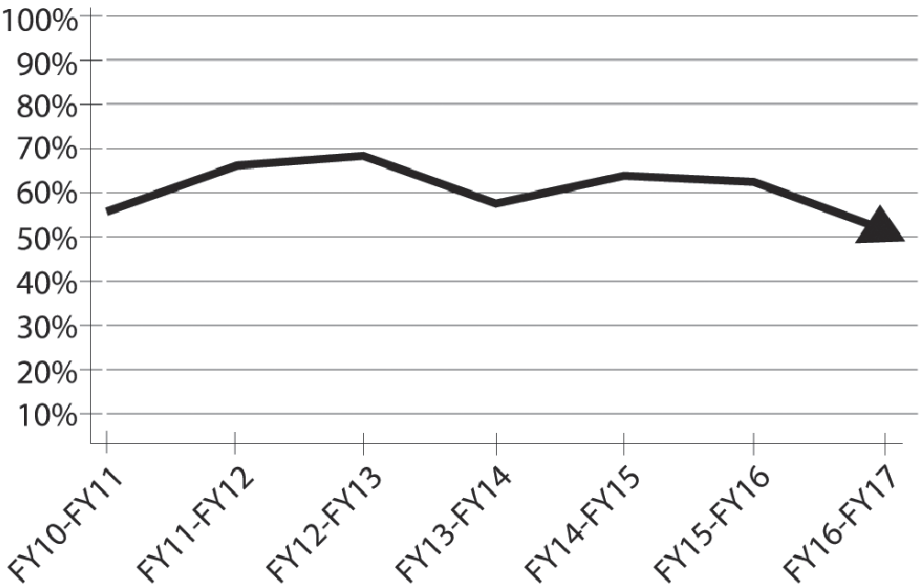
By Rachel Burke  
Staff Writer

Blackburn College’s average retention rate of freshman students is 65.9 percent, which falls in between the national average of 64.8 to 70.8 percent, according to the Director of Institutional Research Kristi Nelms. Some students are under the impression that Blackburn has an obscenely low freshman retention rate, but because of the small population of students; it is easier to notice when students do not return. Larger four-year private schools have a similar, if not lower, freshman retention rate.

Several Blackburn faculty and staff members attended a retreat on Friday, Sept. 15, and Saturday, Sept. 16, to discuss retention rates and ways to improve them. The retreat was hosted by the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. The goal of the program is to gather data on retention rates to improve student success.

Nelms organized the retreat with the Gardner Institute to collect information on which freshmen have a higher retention rate. “White students

## Freshmen Retention



Freshmen retention rates for Blackburn from the last seven years

tend to have a better retention rate than students of color,” Nelms said. “Dual credit students retain better because they already have a head-start, students living on campus have a higher retention rate than commuters.”

Sophomore pre-medicine biology major Haley Simmons knew a handful of students that didn’t stay. “Most students left because of the work program,” Simmons said, “and they either got too many write-ups and

couldn’t stay at the school without a job, or they couldn’t handle their hours and class schedules.”

Chemistry professor Dr. Mark Armstrong, who attended the retreat, explained that the purpose was to “collect mountains of data.” He noticed the biggest trend based on the data is that students just are not prepared for college academically, socially and have trouble with the work program.

The retreat also focused on providing resources for freshmen and first-year students in order to make them more equipped to juggle work and academics, all while still having a social life. To accomplish this goal, there is a new program this year called “FYT Cohort” where students are taught time management and other skills to prepare them for this new chapter in their lives.

One of the tentative strategies that Armstrong took away from the retreat was to include more professional assistance for students including counseling and athletic training. He clarified that “with enough time and enough money,” the retention rate should increase.

# Snack Attack!

## Weekly specials announced

By Rachel Burke  
Staff Writer

This year, Snack Bar is introducing a new menu item: The Weekly Special. The special will vary every week with other food options that Sodexo offers. Sodexo is the company that provides Snack Bar with all of their food and ingredients.

Snack Bar department manager Carley Prince noticed, “Since I’ve been here, we’ve always had the same meals and I’m pretty sure since before that we’ve always had the same meals.” She talked to her supervisors about the lack of variety and they collectively decided to try out the weekly special.

Supervisor of Dining and Hospitality and Snack Bar Joseph Piechowski had a lot to do with the menu. In the Blackburn Announcements, the list of future weekly specials is listed in order. After all of the specials have been offered, the list repeats itself. “All the weekly specials are meal exchanges so they come with the fries or tots and a drink,” Prince added.



Students in line at snack bar

For the next couple of weeks, the menu items will include chicken patty parmesan, chicken fries, walking tacos and much more. Prince describes it as “a good hit for us, and more variety for the students.” Instead of having the same handful of meals every week, this is an effort to branch out and offer

something different.

So far, Prince has noticed a positive reaction from students, although it has only been available for a short time. Freshman Kyleigh Presley tried the first special of the week, the chicken nuggets. “They were fire,” Presley reviewed. “I’m glad there’s a variety to

the same things I see on the menu every day.”

While this is only a trial run, the number of sales for these particular items will determine if the weekly special will stay. If students are responding positively to these items, the sales will prove it.

# Jesus Comes to Blackburn

By Rachel Burke  
Staff Writer

There is a new class offered this year in the philosophy and religion department, created by department chair Dr. Carter Aikin. The class is called “Jesus,” and it is about the many different versions of Jesus throughout different cultures and interpretations. Aikin describes the class as being about “who was Jesus and who is Jesus.” He wants the students to walk away from his class having a clear understanding of what Jesus means to them.

“You’ve got your South Park Jesus, American Values Jesus, Capitalist Jesus, Communist Jesus,” Aikin explained. He felt that there were a lot of studies about Jesus that failed to interact with the other versions of Jesus. “We know that culturally the definition of who he was is a mess,” Aikin elaborated, “but



Hudson chapel

PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

it’s also a mess academically.”

Aikin does not have any books assigned to this class because all the

books he has are too lengthy to get the same point across. His goal for the course is to collect “neutral and not

neutral sources and have the students weigh for themselves who he, Jesus, was. This is entirely up to them.”

Classes like this usually start off as a topics course, but Aikin was very passionate, so he started it as a course that is going to be offered for two years minimum. He anticipates this course will last quite a while depending on how the students respond to it.

Senior Spanish major Daniel Ramirez is currently taking the Jesus course. “I really love this class,” Ramirez raved. He loves the content of the course and believes “Dr. Aikin’s enthusiasm really brings the class together.”

“Jesus” is one of the two new courses in the department this year, the other being "Happiness."

# Though Far Away, Beavers Brave Storm

By Kodey Price  
Contributing Writer

Category 4 storm Hurricane Harvey made landfall last month, hitting the Gulf of Mexico and Texas.

Just after Harvey, Category 5 storm Hurricane Irma hit Florida, resulting in the evacuation of tens of thousands of Florida residents. Though Hurricane Irma was over 800 miles from Blackburn College, some students felt its impact.

Sophomore sports management major Andrew Gill’s family is located in Jacksonville, Florida. “For me personally, it was a really worrisome time because of having to look and see about my family. Also not knowing what kind of damage it was going to do,” he said. “Everything is good now. Some minor damage to the house, but we will probably see more because the

flooding hasn’t reached its peak yet. But everyone I know and everyone in my family is good. That’s the main concern.”

Freshman psychology major Christian Jackson has an uncle living 15 minutes outside of Gainesville, Florida, who had to hunker down in an underground shelter when Irma hit. “I wasn’t super concerned because he had gotten to safe shelter before the storm hit, but once the storm hit we had lost contact with him, and then we became more afraid because of the possibility of his shelter becoming flooded,” Jackson said. He was happy to report that, since the storm has passed, his uncle is safe but his house sustained damage and will need a new roof.

The campus is making efforts to aid the victims of the storms. The Campus Activity Board and other organizations



GRAPHIC BY JOHN HUMMER

at Blackburn are sending school supplies to students affected by Hurricane Irma. Alondra Olvera, Resident Director of Jewell Hall and Director of Campus Activities, mentioned that she hopes

students and Carlinville residents will help in the campus and community-wide effort to get a trailer filled and sent to Florida.



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# ANNUAL SAMJAM MUSIC FESTIVAL IS A SUCCESS

By Gary Lowder  
Senior Writer

Neurofibromatosis (NF) is a debilitating disease that causes tumors to form in the brain, spinal cord and nerves. According to the fliers distributed at SamJam, despite being a fairly rare disease (fewer than 200,000 U.S. cases per year), NF affects more people than Muscular Dystrophy, Tay-Sachs and Huntington's disease combined. One in every 2,500 people has some form of NF.

Sam Oswald, the son of Blackburn’s director of marketing and public relations Pete Oswald Sr., is one of the few who suffer from this disease. Sam underwent spinal fusion surgery at four years old and was diagnosed with NF soon after.

As a result, Sam had to undergo surgery for two brain tumors, shunt revisions, bone grafting on both legs, knee surgery, dermal tumor removal and eye surgery in addition to radiation and chemo therapies. Sam is now 32 years old and his father Pete said, “he has a lot he could complain about,” but Sam continues to lead an independent



Ivas John, from Cape Girardeau, Missouri

PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

and positive life.

When asked how his son got a music festival in his honor Pete Sr. said, “Two years after he had all of those surgeries, he was still cancer free. Me and my other son, Peter [Jr.], were talking and we wanted to do

something for him, honoring Sam ... One of Sam’s passions is music of all kinds, but he has a special affinity for progressive bluegrass. We thought we should get a couple bands together and do a small music festival with six bands from noon to midnight.” Pete

also decided that the proceeds from the event would go to NF education and research. They chose the organization Neurofibromatosis Midwest, a nonprofit that’s website describes itself as “dedicated to the increasing number of men, women and children challenged by neurofibromatosis.” The organization supports six clinics in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky and the eastern half of Missouri.

SamJam was started four years ago, and since then it has only grown more popular, attracting larger bands and sponsors. This year, SamJam featured music from Trout Steak Revival, Lindsay Lou & the Flatbellys, The Mighty Pines, Ivas John, Tom Irwin & Friends and The Deep Hollow. Pete said, “... all the numbers aren’t in yet, but we expect to generate and donate around \$10,000 to NF Midwest.”

Donations are still being accepted at [www.crowdrise.com/2017-samjam-unplugged-on-the-prairie2](http://www.crowdrise.com/2017-samjam-unplugged-on-the-prairie2). If you would like to learn more about NF you can visit [www.nfmidwest.org](http://www.nfmidwest.org) or [www.ctf.org](http://www.ctf.org).



By Gary Lowder  
Senior Writer

[Author’s Note]: The Blackburn Blotter is a collection of monthly incident logs filed by Blackburn College. Since reports are compiled the following month by the Campus Community and Safety Department, as well as Residence Life, they are published a month behind. For example, August’s log will be published in September.

Some important terms to note are Clery and Title IX. A report made

to Clery involves incidents that fall under the Clery Act. Examples of these incidents include: stalking, intimidation, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, underage alcohol consumption, hate speech and Title IX violations. Title IX reports are made when discrimination on the basis of sex or gender, sexual harassment or sexual violence is involved.

It is pertinent that these logs are published so that the Blackburn community can be aware of crime on campus. This listing also promotes a better understanding of how incidents

are handled at Blackburn College.

From Aug. 18 to Aug. 31, the Campus Community and Safety Department and Residence Life handled a total of 11 incidents:

Aug. 18: Three separate instances were reported. The first of these was damage to a vehicle in the Jones parking lot. There was also an alcohol policy violation in Stoddard Hall and a trouble alarm went off in North/Challacombe Hall.

Aug. 23: A residence hall infraction was reported in Butler Hall and a Clery reportable sexual assault occurred in a

residence hall.

Aug. 25: A Clery reportable substance abuse policy violation took place in Demuzio Campus Center.

Aug. 26: Excessive messes were reported in Jewell Hall and students on the parlor roof of North/Challacombe Hall were also reported.

Aug. 28: Reckless driving occurred in the Jewell Hall parking lot.

Aug. 31: Reckless driving took place on the campus roadway and there was a suspicion of marijuana usage in Jewell Hall.

# O'BRIEN WINS BC IMPACT AWARD

By Ashley Thompson  
Staff Writer

The September BC Impact Award was awarded to Student Life Office Manager Debbie O’Brien. During the month of September, O’Brien will be recognized on award displays in both Hudson Hall and Demuzio Campus Center and will receive a \$100 gift card.

In an email, O’Brien said, “I am very honored to have received the award” and noted she will put the gift card to good use.

The BC Impact award is given to a college faculty or staff member who

makes a positive difference on the Blackburn campus. These employees have shown initiative to make life on the Blackburn campus better every day, whether that be providing services that are above and beyond their job descriptions or encouraging others to participate in different activities. The award is given during the months of September, October, November, February, March and April.

Any staff or faculty member may nominate one of their peers by filling out the nomination form on the faculty page at [www.blackburn.edu](http://www.blackburn.edu).



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

# MORE KNOWLEDGE THAN YOU COULD SHAKE A SPEARE AT



PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

Dr. Sharon Ammen leading the Shakespeare workshop in Bothwell

By Gary Lowder  
Senior Writer

Shakespeare is the bane of high school English students everywhere. But there is a reason the Bard of Avon is still popular. His works remain relatable and entertaining. This is why about a dozen Blackburn theater students

jumped at the chance to attend a free Shakespeare workshop with Dr. Sharon Ammen, professor emeritus from St. Mary of the Woods College in Indiana. Theater professor Carolyn Conover mentored under Ammen and knew her expertise could be used at Blackburn. Senior computer science and musical theater double major Jessica Cramer

said, “You could easily tell that Sharon Ammen had a lot of experience, not only with Shakespeare, but also teaching and acting in general. She was filled with energy and enthusiasm for her art and you could tell that she is passionate about her work.”

The two-hour workshop (hosted by Ammen) took place on the Bothwell stage on Saturday, Sept. 9.

Ammen was a guest speaker the following day in Conover’s dramatic literature and acting class. Her lecture focused on May Irwin and other influential women of the Vaudeville era. Ammen is an expert on these topics and recently published a book called, "Singing, Shouting, and the Shadow of Minstrelsy."

Most of the Shakespeare workshop attendees were students who will be performing in the Blackburn College Department of Music and Theatre’s rendition of Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night.” Conover explained, “Students and young actors are often intimidated by classical text, so it is very valuable to interact with the text in a way that feels like it’s possible. There is no need to be afraid of it. When we work to understand

the core of what is being said, we can see very quickly how much we actually understand. Watching students make these discoveries for themselves is so exciting. When you can see them think, ‘Oh yeah! I get it!’”

Ammen began with exercises to loosen up and familiarize herself with the actors. After this she led dramatic and theatrical readings, teaching the students about the importance of inflection and the way the old English is meant to be read. Conover wants the actors to take their workshop experience and apply it to their upcoming production. “We have already been applying some of the concepts in rehearsal, primarily the use of paraphrase and pulse,” said Conover. “Often, new actors are afraid to be big and fill the space, but these are large characters, and we need to fill them and do them justice! I always tell my actors that I don’t want to watch actors talking on a stage. I want characters who live in a world. That is our goal of the play.” The Blackburn College Department of Music and Theatre’s rendition of “Twelfth Night” will open on Nov. 2 and will run through Nov. 5.



# BLACKBURN'S FRESH FACES

## CALL FOR CAMPUS TO EMBRACE ART

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Wednesdays 7-8 pm in Lumpkin

All are welcome! ¡Vamos a hablar!

By Gary Lowder & Karissa Coonrod  
Staff Writers

Bothwell’s sculpture garden is one of the most beautiful places on campus. It’s a great place to reflect and admire some of Blackburn’s students’ larger art projects. If new art appreciation adjunct faculty member Deborah Wheeler has her way, it’s about to get even more interesting.

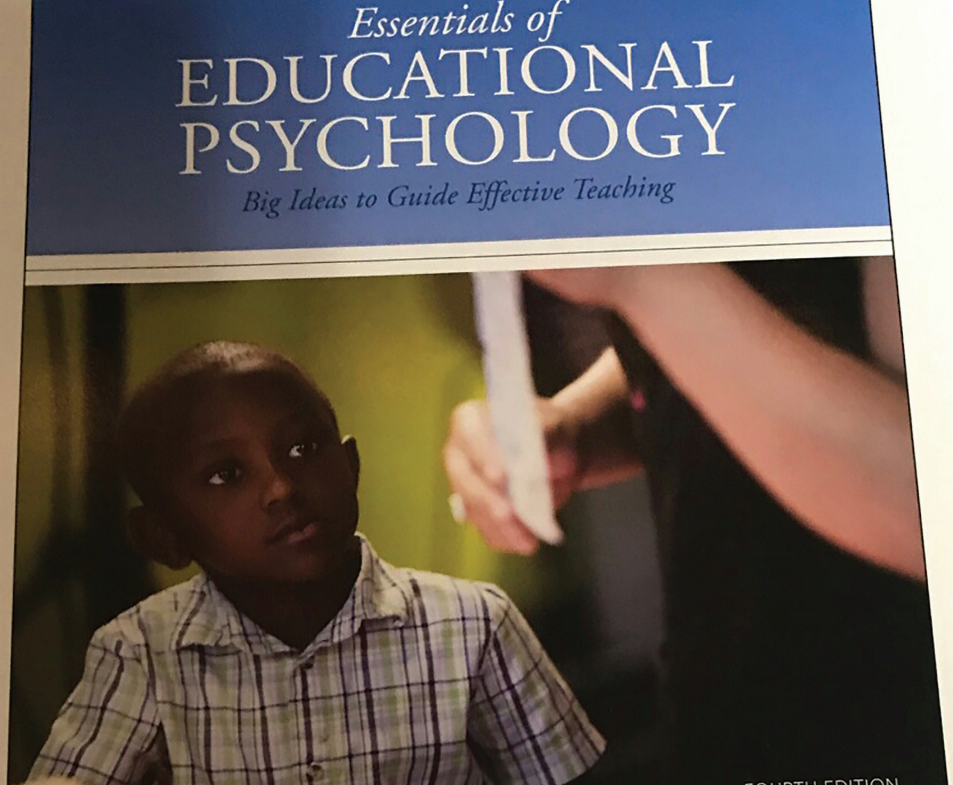
Wheeler received a master’s degree in fine arts (sculpture specialization) from Michigan State University and a bachelor’s degree in fine arts (sculpture specialization) and a minor in art history from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Her website also lists some of her prior experiences and accomplishments: “[Wheeler] has exhibited nationally and internationally and has had several pieces collected by museums and galleries including Tom of Finland’s TOM House located in West Hollywood California and The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction Gallery in Bloomington, Indiana. Along with exhibitions, Deborah has presented her work abroad in 2012 at the “Lesbian

Lives” interdisciplinary conference in Dublin, Ireland and “The Erotic: Gender and Sexuality” conference at the University of Oxford.”

Wheeler also has experience in community benefit projects including St. Louis Artworks, an art group that gives back to the community and helps future artists perfect their craft. In this program students between the ages of 14 and 21 are mentored by area artists and build bike racks, benches or any other requests completely from old bicycles and their parts. Not only do the projects benefit the regional community, but the whole process reuses bicycles that would have otherwise been thrown away.

Wheeler hopes to use this community friendly, artistic experience to improve Blackburn and its campus. She said, “I’d like to do more on campus. I’d like to enlarge the sculpture garden. I’d like to put more art on campus by the means of public sculpture or public murals. I think that there needs to be more art on campus.” Wheeler also suggested that the college have students display their work in buildings to add a little more character to the campus.

# BLACKBURN WELCOMES NEW EDUCATION FACULTY: SHERRY SULLIVAN



Education Textbook PHOTO BY KARISSA COONROD

By Rachel Burke  
Staff Writer

Born and raised in California, Director of Diversity, Inclusion and Student Success Eda Watts traveled halfway across the country to work with the students, staff and faculty at Blackburn College. Watts is very passionate about her job on campus and is very excited to see what challenges and rewards she will encounter in her first year.

Watts grew up in San Francisco and attended San Francisco State University. “My college experience,” Watts said, “had everything to do with my career path.” She was always an academic achiever and earned an academic scholarship to receive a bachelor’s degree in communications.

Watts came from a single-mother household and struggled with being in a low socioeconomic class. In college, she lived on her own and sometimes struggled with the question, “What comes first: education or bills?”

Despite these barriers, Watts made it through. “After I scratched my way out to the top,” she explained, “and barely made it by the skin of my teeth, I thought to myself, ‘You know what, this really sucks.’” She still felt isolated and had no idea where she wanted to go from there.

She worked at a community college with around 40,000 students for eight years before coming to Blackburn. There was a bit of an adjustment coming from a much larger institution to such a close-knit private college. One of the better differences between these schools, Watts stated, is that “everyone has an open door” at Blackburn.

The work program is also a unique aspect of the college to which Watts had to adjust. She supervises three student workers. One of those students is junior political science major Deja Luckett. Luckett knew that Watts was going to have an accepting attitude from the beginning, but she says her favorite quality about her supervisor is, “She’s not just here for the salary. She actually

By Karissa Coonrod  
Staff Writer

Coming in as a freshman at Blackburn College can be a little difficult at first. But what is it like coming in as a new teacher? Dr. Sherry Sullivan is the newest professor in the education department and many students do not seem to know much about her yet.

Sullivan spent some of her career teaching a variety of subjects and grade levels in southern Illinois. She later taught at John A. Logan Community College in Carterville, Illinois. Sullivan earned her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign before eventually coming across Blackburn College. “I had been teaching at a community college, and due to our Illinois budget crisis, it looked as if I was going to get laid off because I was at the top of the salary scale,” Sullivan said. “I really wasn’t ready to stop teaching, but I knew that I wouldn’t be staying there. I investigated a lot

of different places within the state of Illinois. I came across Blackburn and liked the values that it represented. I thought it fit in really well with my values.”

One of Sullivan’s students, sophomore secondary education history major Samantha Cranmer, stated, “She’s really sweet. I like her teaching style because she incorporates activities we can use in our own classrooms into hers.”

Due to the small staff in the education department, education majors will definitely have a class with Sullivan at some point in time. Currently, she is teaching philosophy and instructional methods in the middle school and educational psychology.

Although she is a bit overwhelmed by a new environment and new students, Sullivan feels that her classes will be enlightening since she has been teaching in college for over 20 years and has gained a lot of experience in the field.



Eda Watts waiting to present at a First Year Transition Cohort in Olin Lecture Hall PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

cares about the campus and cares about changing the diversity awareness on campus.”

Although she’s new, Watts has ambitions for the future of Blackburn to

help everyone feel included. She herself already feels included on campus by the staff, faculty and students. “It’s a feeling of family,” she said.



# CHANGES TO THE ART GALLERY

By Sara Hyneman  
Contributing Writer

The art gallery housed in the Visual Arts Center has been a part of campus life for years. It hosts senior and junior art seminars and artwork from established regional artists. On Sept. 29, the gallery will be hosting the Patricia Wier Mynka Memorial Exhibition, in honor of Patricia Mynka, who graduated from the school and willed \$25,000 to Blackburn College. The event, traditionally held during homecoming, has been a part of Blackburn for years and seeks to showcase successful alum, but the gallery isn’t all tradition. For the first time since 2008, it’s back in professor of fine art Robert Huber’s hands, and he’s making some changes.

The first and the most important change is consistency. In the past, the gallery was sometimes found empty, and shows could be poorly advertised. Huber said, “I want to have a regular schedule that’s pre-planned a year in advance.” The goal is for art to always be showing in the gallery and to try to match opening dates with important

events on campus. The consistency enables the department to advertise better and plan ahead, and also makes the school more attractive to visiting artists. It is important that Blackburn be attractive to potential artists because much information regarding who Blackburn hosts comes through word of mouth, and if artists have good openings and enjoy visiting, they will tell others. But the gallery is important for more than just art students or artists. According to Huber, the gallery is a place where students can interact with the wider world. “This is a way to see things that are happening in metropolitan areas all around the region,” he said. “People really should take advantage of it.”

The upcoming Memorial Exhibition will feature photographs by Jon Randolph, who graduated from Blackburn in 1970, and Richard Sitler, who graduated in 1990. Both of the choices showcase Huber’s dedication to making the gallery a space where students can experience the world outside of this small campus.



Artwork by Giada Otten in the Visual Arts Center Gallery

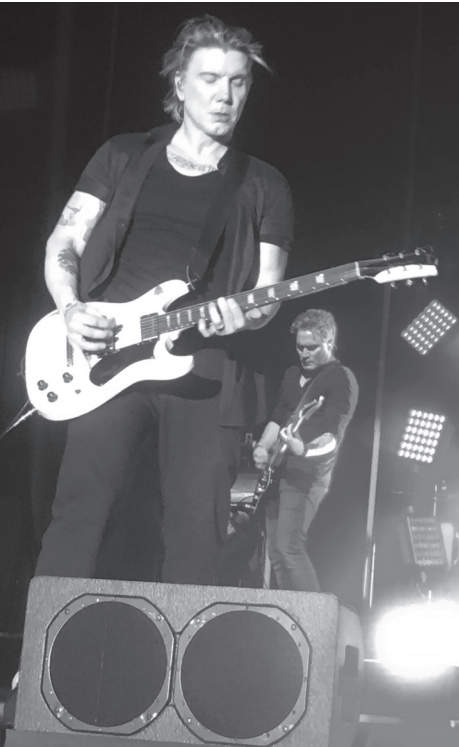
“Richard has traveled a lot overseas and to Latin America...his work really speaks to diversity. It’s a broad, sort of international body of work. It has

sort of a humanitarian edge to it,” said Huber. As for Randolph, who is also a photographer, Huber found that his work was a great compliment to Sitler’s and said, “It was a similar vein, just a different aesthetic.”

The first show this year, an exhibition for Giada Otten, opened to great success and turnout. “The most important thing was that Giada was happy...we made some other good connections,” Huber said. Nevertheless, he acknowledged that there were roadblocks to keeping the gallery filled, not the least of which was budgeting. “We need a separate budget for the gallery. We’re running on supply money to pay for the gallery,” he said. Worse yet, it’s inconsistent with how other galleries handle budgets. “The gallery needs to be sold a little bit better. We need to articulate the importance of the gallery in terms of regional identity.”

The gallery, he claims, is essential not only to art majors, but the campus identity at large. “If we’re not filling the gallery,” Huber said, “it would be negligent.”

# “You Should Be Happy” with the new GOO GOO DOLLS EP



Goo Goo Dolls performing at Peoria Riverfront in the summer

By Cody Bumgardner  
Staff Writer

The Goo Goo Dolls have been a prominent name in rock music for over 20 years. The band got their start in 1986 in Buffalo, New York, as a punk band and slowly transformed their sound, breaking through in the late 1990s with hits like “Name,” “Iris,” “Broadway” and “Slide.” The band remained a radio staple in the early and mid-2000s with songs like “Here is Gone” and “Better Days.” While the music scene has changed since then, the Goo Goo Dolls are still one of the hardest working bands out there, continuously touring and writing new songs.

Early this summer, the Goo Goo Dolls released “You Should Be Happy,” a five song extended play (EP), following their 2016 album “Boxes.” The overall sound of this release is a little less polished and produced than their previous album, and is a big

change from 2013’s “Magnetic.” While the Goos don’t completely abandon the pop sound they’ve developed over the past several years, this EP certainly has traces of the rock sound that the band is built upon.

The title track, “Tattered Edge/You Should Be Happy,” is a great opener with a catchy rhythm and a powerful chorus.

“Use Me,” is the EP’s lead single. The song is instantly catchy with reverbed acoustic guitar, tight bass, powerful drums and heavy tremolo on the electric guitar. Though I liked the instrumentation, the vocals lost me at first. It took a few listens to get used to, but now I love the song.

While guitarist John Rzeznik is the band’s primary vocalist, bassist Robby Takac, who sang the majority of vocals early on, still writes and sings songs on their albums. “30K Feet” is one of the best songs Takac has written in a while, and the song is a lot simpler than the

music he’s written lately.

“Walk Away” is my favorite song on the EP. It’s the perfect example of acoustic-based ballads that Rzeznik writes best. Like the previous songs, it has minimal instrumentation. It slowly builds up with drums, bass and a slide-guitar solo towards the end. This is the kind of song I hope the band keeps making.

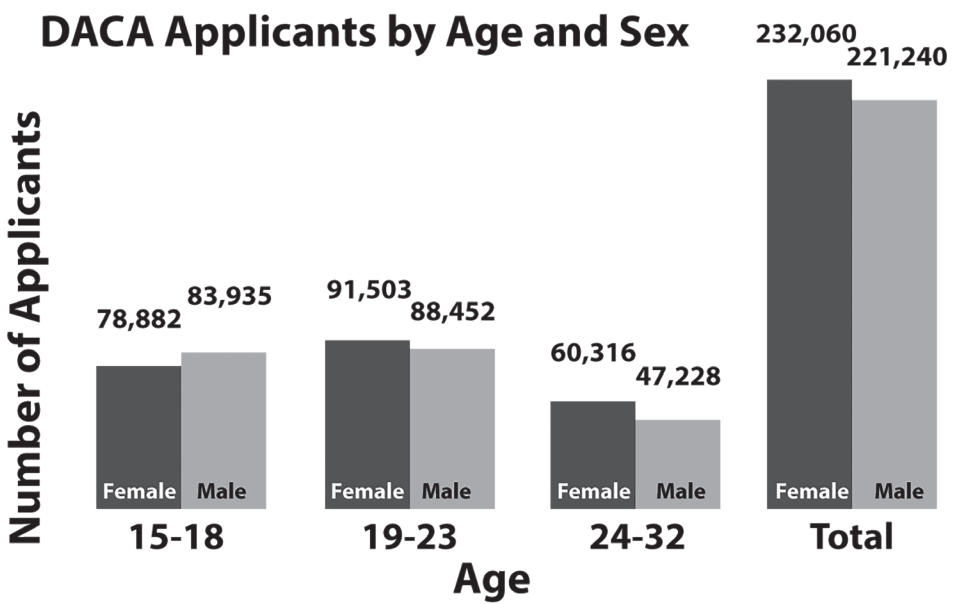
The last song is a remix of “Boxes” from their last album. I would’ve liked to have heard another new track rather than a remix of a previously released song. It isn’t bad, but the original mix is still better in my opinion.

Overall, “You Should Be Happy” is a great quick listen. The Goo Goo Dolls have stood the test of time and continue to prove that they can still make great music. Check out the new EP and see the band on their “Long Way Home Summer Tour.”



the carlinville dilemma

# WE NEED TO GO BACA



GRAPHIC BY JOHN HUMMER

Statistics on number of DACA applicants gathered by The Brookings Institution

By Christopher Stahl  
Staff Writer

In 2012, then President Barack Obama passed an executive order known as the Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). According to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website, DACA allows families with children under the age of 16 to apply for deferred action, which allows illegal immigrants to delay their deportation, which needed to be renewed every two years. On Sept. 5, President Donald Trump repealed DACA, causing the government to

stop accepting applications from illegal immigrants.

“At this point, the current DACA appeal has little to no impact on the college,” said Director of Inclusion, Diversity and Student Success Eda Watts in an email. However, there are still students on campus that have strong opinions about Trump’s move. Such students include Trump supporter and senior accounting major Seth Olson and undocumented student sophomore and Spanish major Cristal Ontiveros.

“I personally don’t think we should have people coming here illegally. . . In an essence, it does make an

impact because [employers] will pay [immigrants] under the table at a lower rate,” Olson said. In the end, Olson is conflicted about his position: “I’m not necessarily for it nor am I against it. I feel kind of neutral for it. I probably lean more toward agreeing with it being repealed just due to the fact that individuals could come here legally, and I don’t have a problem with that. I just have a problem with them coming here illegally.”

On the other hand, Ontiveros said, “It’s . . . sad because it’s the only thing that’s keeping a lot of undocumented students here. And [Trump] taking that away [makes the undocumented students] uncertain whether they’re going be able to stay here or if they’re going be deported back to wherever they came from. I’m not a DACA participant, but there’s about 800,000 students that have DACA, and they don’t know if [the U.S. government] are going to use any information that they have against [the undocumented residents].”

I agree with a lot of what Ontiveros said. It is rather scary to people that I know who were DACA participants who may be deported because of Trump’s actions. I am someone who believes in heavy immigration reform to make it easier to gain U.S. citizenship, and I feel as if people that come to this country should be able to receive that

opportunity without much trouble. I do understand the repercussions of having completely open borders, but if we allow possible citizens into the country and give them access to easy citizenship, then people wouldn’t have the complaint of employers firing legal workers to pay undocumented residents under the table.

I think repealing DACA is a step backward from the direction that we were headed. As a nation, I believe that we need to be progressive on issues such as these, not go in the opposite direction. There are other nations that are showing the rest of the world how a first world country should act, and as one ourselves, we need to show them that we can do the same.

Thankfully, Blackburn, as a campus, has the progressive mindset that I wish to see in the government. Director of Diversity, Inclusion and Student Success Eda Watts said, “we will continue to serve all students regardless of their citizenship status. So in essence, I want our students to know that, as a college, we are committed to providing an inclusive and diverse environment that supports the educational goals of every student. Everyone here is valued, regardless of citizenship or nationality—it is our vast array of differences that truly gives strength to the diversity of Blackburn College.”

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MISSION

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.

GUEST COMMENTARIES

Commentaries featured on the editorial page of The ‘Burnian reflect the editorial team’s opinions. We welcome guest commentaries between 400-500 words. The ‘Burnian does not endorse individual opinions by staff, contributing or guest writers. 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.

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# ONE OPINION DOES NOT REFLECT ALL

The ‘Burnian wants to make one thing clear - that one opinion piece published in our newspaper does not reflect the opinions and beliefs of all staff members. It has come to our attention that the cartoon that ran in our last issue (Vol. 17, No.1) provoked many individuals on campus. While we understand that some of the items we run in our publication can be irritating or frustrating, we would like for our readers to know that it has never been our intent to attack a particular group of people nor to intentionally hurt anyone’s feelings.

That being said, we stand by our staff and the content they create. Although we do edit some of what is written and illustrated, we do our best to reflect the opinions and current events that are happening on

campus and in the Carlinville community.

The cartoon, which cast a negative light on our dining hall, was actually a replication of a student-created Instagram account entitled “TrueDing.”

Again, it was never our intention to hurt anyone, and in fact, we are very thankful that we do have a dining service available at our institution. One can assume that students are always going to be unsatisfied with what they have, because we have been raised to always want more. Blame it on generational issues, blame it on a lack of morals and values, blame it on whatever you want.

This isn’t the last cartoon or article you will see and get upset about in our publication - we are not public relations. However, we would love any and all



feedback and we welcome guest columns, commentaries and letters to the editor. If you have any questions, concerns, tips or feedback, email us at burnian@blackburn.edu.

## A Voice for Conservative College Students

By Cody Bumgardner  
Staff Writer

Conservative students are under fire at college campuses all over the country. There have been violent attacks on conservatives at rallies like the one in Berkeley, California, last month, where right-wing demonstrators, including students, were targeted by antifa (anti-fascist) members, who used pepper spray and other weapons to injure and intimidate them. While violence on conservatives is not a common occurrence everywhere, freedom of speech is certainly in jeopardy, and it is through events like the one in Berkeley that strike fear in students to express their beliefs.

Many colleges tend to promote and push liberal ideologies on their students, and Blackburn is no exception: Just recently an article was written in this very paper condemning conservatism, and stating that conservatives are not even worth talking to. There are posters all over this campus promoting the college’s inclusive community, which isn’t a bad thing. But the posters defeat their

own purpose by taking a jab at Trump supporters, stating “Latinx students, you will find no walls here,” which either promotes illegal immigration or insinuates that all Latinx students are here illegally, which is very disrespectful to them. This “inclusive” poster does a poor job of including the values of individuals who might be conservative and is offensive to the Latinx community as well. The makers of the poster could’ve been inclusive without getting political.

While students at Blackburn may not be subject to the dangers that conservatives face on bigger campuses, the liberal atmosphere makes it hard for them to express their free speech rights. “Here in Carlinville I don’t really fear for my own personal safety,” said senior psychology Rob Wingerter. “If I attended a bigger institution I might. But even so, I fear for my social reputation. I don’t think that expressing these views is something that’s so extreme, but some people are making it out to be.”

Though freedom of speech cannot be taken away from any U.S. citizen,

sharing conservative beliefs could damage a college student’s standing with their friends and peers (the previously mentioned article in The ‘Burnian states this too). It is sad that students are branded as neo-nazis and racists just for having conservative values, or for just supporting our nation’s president. The media has not helped break the stigmas about conservatives that many believe to be true. There are so many sources spreading fake news, attacking President Trump and conservatives alike, rather than reporting reality, and focusing on issues that really matter. “All these attacks on freedom of speech are happening and I hear about it nowhere else but Fox News,” said Wingerter.

It is evident that this college does little to help the free speech rights of its conservative students, and promotes an agenda that cultivates the hate and misunderstanding that many people have regarding conservatism. This article at the very least can be a voice for any conservative college student on this campus.

### Crossword

#### Across

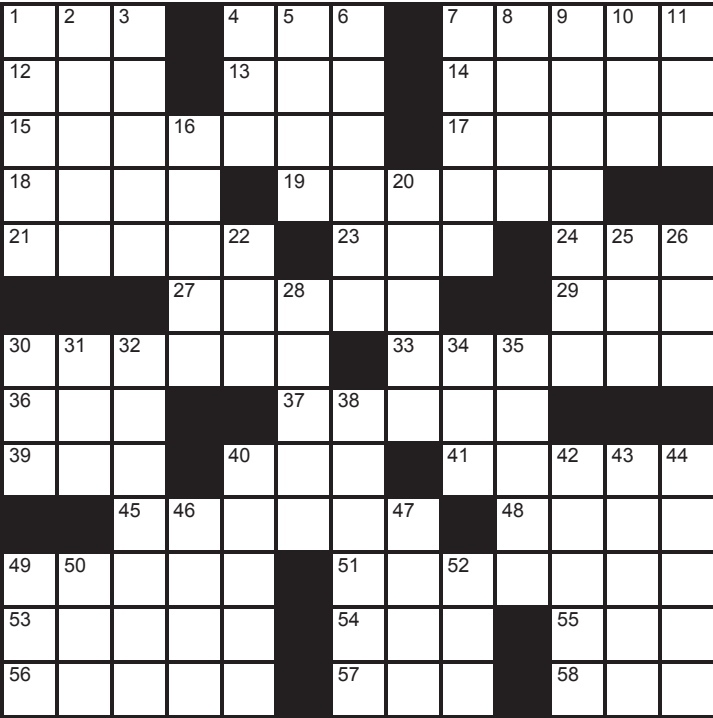
- 1 Second sight  
4 Astern  
7 Small portion  
12 E. state (Abbr.)  
13 Sign of the zodiac  
14 Baseball’s Doubleday  
15 Frozen  
17 Identical copy  
18 Actor Jannings  
19 Critique  
21 TV without pictures  
23 Policeman (Abbr.)  
24 Spoil  
27 Eyeshade  
29 Verb form  
30 Miss. city  
33 Paddles  
36 Alias inits.  
37 Bloodsucker  
39 Via  
40 Cable type (Abbr.)

- 41 Tent  
45 Flu symptom  
48 Ventilates  
49 Abdominal pain  
51 Discernible  
53 Amphitheater  
54 Metric unit  
55 Sp. uncle  
56 Former politician  
William Jennings \_\_\_\_  
57 Totally  
58 Slangy affirmative

#### Down

- 1 Garden tool  
2 AL city  
3 Tartan  
4 Actress MacGraw  
5 Dread  
6 Ohio city  
7 Implied  
8 Competent  
9 Winter figure  
10 Decade

- 11 Before (Poet.)  
16 Deep Six author, \_\_\_\_  
Cussler  
20 Rhyme  
22 Petroleum  
25 Noah’s boat  
26 Thing, in law  
28 Figure out  
30 Draw off  
31 Small guitar  
32 Decorating herb  
34 Proportion (Abbr.)  
35 In front  
38 Skin disorder  
40 Edible nut  
42 Godliness  
43 Ford or Kovacs  
44 Bar, legally  
46 Foch or Simone  
47 Malevolent  
49 Hack  
50 Hockey name  
52 Sick



### Movie History

- What was Charlie Chaplin’s first feature film?  
(a) City Lights (b) The Kid (c) The Circus
- What film was the first ‘talkie’ in 1927?  
(a) A Day at the Races (b) Rhapsody in Blue (c) The Jazz Singer
- In what movie did Greta Garbo have her first speaking part?  
(a) Camille (b) Anna Christie (c) Queen Christina
- What movie won the Best Picture Oscar in 1939?  
(a) Gone With the Wind (b) The Wizard of Oz (c) Stagecoach
- Gary Cooper admitted he made a mistake in turning down what Alfred Hitchcock film?  
(a) Rear Window (b) Suspicion (c) Foreign Correspondent
- What film was based on the life of newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst?  
(a) The Front Page (b) Deadline (c) Citizen Kane
- In 1952, what was the first full length color 3D movie?  
(a) Bwana Devil (b) Robot Monster (c) House of Wax
- The song *Rock Around the Clock* was introduced in what movie?  
(a) Blood Alley (b) The Tender Trap (c) Blackboard Jungle
- What studio was the first to be purchased by a conglomerate?  
(a) Universal (b) MGM (c) Paramount
- What movie received the Best Picture Oscar in 1964?  
(a) Mary Poppins (b) My Fair Lady (c) Becket

### Quotes

*By all means marry; if you get a good wife, you’ll be happy; if you get a bad one, you’ll become a philosopher.* ~ Socrates

*Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I don’t like that attitude. I can assure them it is much more serious than that.* ~ Bill Shankly

*When a friend is in trouble, don’t annoy him by asking if there is any thing you can do. Think up something appropriate and do it.* ~ Edgar Watson Howe

*The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts.* ~ Bertrand Russell

*A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.* ~ Lana Turner

### Sports Soup

- What was the only MLB team to win 2 World Series in the 1980s?  
(a) Dodgers (b) Phillies (c) Yankees
- What NFL team had the first professional cheerleading squad?  
(a) Green Bay Packers (b) San Francisco 49ers (c) Dallas Cowboys
- What decade did names first appear on the back of NFL jerseys?  
(a) 1970s (b) 1960s (c) 1950s
- What woman won 5 U.S. figure skating titles, but never an Olympic gold medal?  
(a) Janet Lynn (b) Dorothy Hamill (c) Peggy Fleming
- Who has the most victories as an MLB manager?  
(a) John McGraw (b) Connie Mack (c) Casey Stengel
- The Harlem Globetrotters were formed in what city?  
(a) Philadelphia (b) Baltimore (c) Chicago
- What MLB team set a record when they lost 120 games in 1962?  
(a) Chicago Cubs (b) New York Mets (c) Houston Astros
- What tennis player was the first to win over \$100,000 in a single year?  
(a) Billie Jean King (b) Chris Evert (c) Rosie Casals
- Along with Sam Snead and Ben Hogan, who is credited with making the game of golf a popular sport?  
(a) Bobby Jones (b) Arnold Palmer (c) Byron Nelson
- What MLB pitcher has won the Cy Young award 7 times?  
(a) Randy Johnson (b) Roger Clemens (c) Greg Maddux



# SENIOR STANDOUT

## Blackburn By Chance, Leader By Choice

By Jordan Wood

Sports Writer and Layout Assistant

When senior biology major Meghan Sykora was in kindergarten, her mother convinced her to pick up a soccer ball—just like her older brother, Justin. So she did. Sykora hasn't looked back since.

As she grew up, she learned the value of sports and the lessons soccer can teach. She discovered that many aspects within the game of soccer were easily translatable to everyday life and that the things she learned within the game would carry her much farther in life than her soccer career—such as the



PHOTO BY CANDACE POLLOCK

Sykora fights to maintain possession

ability to problem solve, work with her teammates and communicate well.

Despite her passion for the game, as high school graduation drew nearer, Sykora was ready to give up the game she had loved for the better part of her life, until Tim Gould came into the picture.

Gould - Blackburn's head women's soccer coach prior to new coach Sohaila Akhavein - noticed Sykora at a soccer tournament in Memphis. After interacting with Gould via email and then again at another tournament in person, Sykora began to look into Blackburn, its biology program and curriculum as well as the soccer program, and realized that she wasn't quite ready to hang up her cleats. "I didn't plan on playing in college... then I came here and learned about the biology program and it was just a bonus that I was going to come to school with a strong program and get to play soccer when I hadn't thought I was going to be able to," she said.

Now, with her senior season underway, Sykora sees a positive future for the women's soccer program under Akhavein. Not only can she see the progress made within the team, but within herself as well. "At first I just



PHOTO BY CANDACE POLLOCK

Sykora races down the field

thought I was a player, that I was just a member on the team, but these past couple weeks I've tried to become a leader. I'm a senior and I need to lead my team... it's my goal to lead and to



PHOTO BY CANDACE POLLOCK

Sykora battles to gain possession of the ball

be there for my teammates when they need me."

"She's quiet at times, but she can be a great leader. I look at a leader as somebody that's not always outgoing and talking all the time, but somebody that's going to lead by example," said Akhavein of Sykora. "She's one of those players that I look to to help our younger players and give direction... She's got a good personality and is a good person. [She's] just somebody that people want to be around."

Following graduation, the four-year defensive player plans to attend nursing school closer to her hometown of Arnold, Missouri.

The Beavers will be back in action in a home matchup against St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opponent Westminster College on Sept. 30.

## FRESH FACE: NO LABELS, JUST RESULTS

By Jordan Wood

Sports Writer and Layout Assistant

At the age of eight, Mercedez Morgan fell in love for the first time and began a long-lasting relationship that has spanned 12 years. Red Bland softball was where this love story began.

With her mother, father and grandfather as her Red Bland coaches, softball became something of a family affair, and deep bonds were built through the game. Morgan continued her park league softball career until the age of 13 when she first joined a local travel team.

As she progressed, Morgan's talent earned her a spot on two of central Illinois' premier organizations - Capital City Chaos and The Hitting Center - with the former reaching the national championship. In Taylorville

High School in Taylorville, Illinois, she earned varsity letters as a four-year starter, moving in from the outfield and replacing a senior as starting second baseman. Later in her career, she was moved over to shortstop.

Along with being a four-year starter, Morgan was also a three-year captain. However, the role was not one the humble player necessarily wanted. "I like to help people out. I like the leadership role but I wouldn't refer to myself as a captain. I don't need a title because that's what a teammate does, you're supposed to help your teammates out," Morgan said.

The versatility and experience Morgan will bring to the Blackburn softball team includes great flexibility, proven leadership and a quiet and humble approach, adding to the intact lineup from a successful 2016-2017 season under the direction of third

year head coach Kerry Crum. "She can play any position, plus handle a bat. [She] was a two year starter at Lincoln College and standout at Taylorville High School, including being an all-conference player. Mercedez brings experience, talent and leadership to us all. [She] will be a very nice addition to the school and softball team," he said.

As the Beavers take to the field this fall in preparation for what appears to be a season with high potential, Morgan looks to do her part and build on an already successful career. "I fell in love with the sport, but learning some of the responsibilities, teamwork and leadership, I could apply that to other things," she said. "Being on a team helped me a lot because you have to trust people, you have to be there, you have to do your part, but you also have to be there for somebody else."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MERCEDEZ MORGAN

Morgan takes a healthy cut during her time at Lincoln College

\*Jordan Wood is a member of the softball team