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Having a Fun and Safe Spring Break

Spring Break is right around the corner, and students will travel to various locations across the country for a week of fun and relaxation.

According to a Nielson report, published in 2008, only 33% of college students believe that their peers demonstrate responsible and safe behavior during Spring Break.

While students returning home for the break are at less risk, they still may find themselves in unfamiliar and risky settings.

Whether your son or daughter is going home or heading elsewhere during the break, Naomi Rocker-Gladen of Suite 101 offers helpful advice that you can pass on to your child regarding his or her safety and well being.

- Always stay in the proximity of at least one friend (preferably two or three). Adhere strictly to the "buddy system" and do not leave with someone other than their buddies. They should choose buddies who they trust.
- Students should not leave with strangers, even if it seems like a good idea. At the time. They should always err on the side of caution and trust their instincts.
- Students should watch their drinks very carefully! Be aware of "date rape" drugs that people sometimes sneak into drinks.

- Binge drinking is a big part of the Spring Break experience for some students, and it gets them in the most trouble. Students should not binge drink, and they should know their alcohol limit.

- Students who drink excessively should *always* use the buddy system and lots of common sense.

- They should never accept a drink from a stranger or let someone else hold their drink.

- Students should always carry a cell phone, identification and important medical information in case of an emergency.



stupor, vomiting, slow breathing or irregular breathing, and unconsciousness.

- Do not drink and drive, ever.
- Be aware of all local laws and regulations involving alcohol, especially if they are travelling abroad. A night in a local jail is probably not on their itinerary.
- Intoxication greatly increases a woman's chance of being raped. If your daughter does drink, be sure to reiterate the importance of relying on the buddy system.

We hope that your son or daughter has a terrific Spring Break and comes back to us in Mid-March ready to tackle the second half of the Spring Semester!



- Make sure your child knows the signs and symptoms of excessive alcohol consumption—confusion,

“Priority date for Blackburn financial aid is April 1, while the State of Illinois processes the forms on a first come first serve basis”



Getting an Early Start on Taking Care of Financial Business

April 15...Tax Day is just around the corner and many are diligently working to complete their income tax forms before the deadline. Once you've completed those forms, keep on going.....go ahead and complete the necessary forms for federal, state, and Blackburn financial aid (also known as the FAFSA). FAFSA information can be found at fafsa.gov.edu

FAFSA can be filed on line or the forms can be printed out, completed, and mailed.

Priority date for Blackburn financial aid is April 1, while the State of Illinois processes the forms on a first come first serve basis. So, the earlier you file the forms the better.

Blackburn billing statements for fall semester 2010 will go out sometime between mid-June and early July. Staff members in the Business Office and Financial Aid Office are available and willing to help with any questions you have about filing the FAFSA, setting up payment plans, or any other topics to help ease the process of paying for your son or daughter's college education.

Current students with outstanding balances will not be able to return to the institution until the balances are paid in full.



Upcoming Events

I'm sure you've heard it over and over again. "There's nothing to do here." Well, we beg to differ. This semester, the college offers a wealth of programs and activities that will keep your son or daughter constructively busy.

Students interested in strengthening their relationship with God can attend church services each Sunday evening at the Southern Baptist Church. Also, weekly bible studies are held on Mondays in Hudson.

A student leadership workshop will take place on February 24.

The sounds of Shannon Curtis will grace Bothwell Auditorium on February 27.

Comedy, circus stunts, and pranks collide at the March 19 "Show Off Show."

On March 27, Blackburn students have three programs to choose from: Choir Concert, the music of David Campbell, and Dance Til You Drop.

Student directed plays are held March 20 & April 23-25. The Spring musical—the Spelling Bee—takes place April 9 to 11 and 16 to 18.

April 12-16, portions of the National AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display

in Demuzio Campus Center. The week will also include a series of other programs about AIDS and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) issues.

The Road to Reality—an interactive exhibit detailing the dangers of drinking and driving takes place on April 15.

This year's spring play—The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee—will be held April 9 to 11 and 16 to 18 in Bothwell Auditorium.

Alumni and siblings of Blackburn students will convene on the campus on April 23 & 24 for a weekend of fun and adventure.

CNN Comes to Blackburn

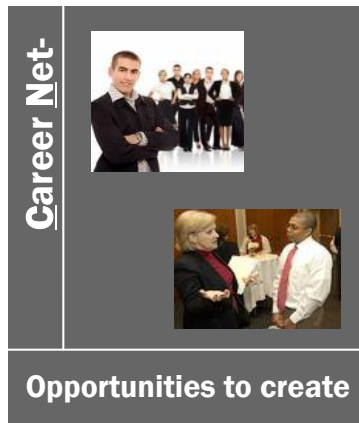
No, not the Cable News Network! Something much better – Career Networking Now!

CNN, scheduled March 24, 2010, from 6p.m. to 8:30p.m. in Mahan Science Center, is designed to give students the opportunity to receive valuable career information.

Students will have the opportunity to meet with Blackburn alumni and area human resources professionals and discuss career opportunities.

HR professionals will give advice on creating resumes that get noticed; interviewing techniques; and translating their Blackburn education into a lucrative career. HR professionals are also available to critique students' resumes and to give individual advice.

Alumni, representing the sciences, business and marketing, fine arts, mathematics, computer science, psychobiology, and criminal justice, will discuss their current careers and offer students advice on finding employment in a tight job market. They will also detail how they found their careers and how Blackburn prepared them for their chosen career field.



Alumni will also be available to offer job search advice to students and to talk individually with students during a “mix and mingle” session following the formal presentations.

While some may believe that CNN is only beneficial for students who are about to begin their careers, the program is designed to help all students, regardless of class, prepare to get the most of their Blackburn education.

CNN is one of many programs sponsored by Career Services this semester. Career Services will also provide free transportation to six career fairs taking place throughout the

state. available to students at no cost.

Career Services also provides career planning services, personal interest assessments, job search assistance, resume writing and interview skills assistance, and offers 2 classes designed to assist students with career and life goals.

For more information visit the Career Services web page at <http://www.blackburn.edu/CurrentStudents/CareerServices.asp> or contact Jerry Ohare, Coordinator of Career Services /at johnare@blackburn.edu.



Upcoming Athletics

Basketball

February 25 & 27—Women's SLIAC Tournament

March 4—Women's NCAA Tournament.

Baseball

March 3—BC v St. Louis Christian College. 12pm.

March 4—BC @ Milikin. 1:30pm.

March 7—BC @ Rhodes College. 1pm.

March 8—BC @ Mississippi College. 4pm.

March 9 & 10—BC @ Loyola University Dawes. 6pm.

March 12 & 13—BC @ Huntingdon College.

March 16—BC v Lincoln Christian College. 12:30pm.

March 20—BC v MacMurray College 12pm.

March 30—BC @ Greenville. 2pm.

Softball

March 6 & 7—BC @ Spring Fling Tournament.

March 8—BC @ University of the Ozarks. 1pm.

March 9—BC @ Central Baptist Church. 12pm.

March 10—BC @ Central Baptist College. 12pm.

March 10—BC @ LeMoyne-Owen College. 1pm.

March 11—BC @ Rhodes College. 1pm.

March 14—BC @ Lindenwood. 1pm.

March 20—BC v Wartburg College. 2pm.

March 21—BC v Robert Morris College. 1pm.

March 26—BC v MacMurray 2:30pm, Principia 4:30pm

March 27—BC v Westminster 10am; Spalding 12pm.

March 31—BC v Eureka. 4pm

Tennis

March 30, April 6, 9, & 10

Weekend Fun For Siblings

Siblings Weekend is a fun-filled weekend for sisters, brothers, cousins, etc. of currently enrolled students at Blackburn College. Siblings Weekend 2010 will take place Friday, April 23 through the late morning of Sunday, April 25.

The events provide siblings numerous opportunities to socialize in a safe and creative environment. Siblings are expected to stay in the residence hall or local residence of their brother or sister. Guardians should understand while professionals and staff from the college will supervise all activities and events, the Blackburn

student is ultimately responsible for his/her sibling's supervision. To ensure safety, the student hosting the sibling(s) will



be required to sign a substance free contract.

While snacks will be provided, no meals will be provided. Siblings can eat the cafeteria with their Blackburn sibling, who can swipe their meal card.

More information will be coming in the months to come, so stay tuned.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Beth Tinsley, Director of Residence Life & Student Activities at eliza-beth.tinsley@blackburn.edu or (217) 854-3231 x 4287.

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Important dates parents of Blackburn students should know!

March 5	Spring Break begins @ 5pm
March 14	Spring Break ends. Halls open @ 3pm.
March 15	Classes resume @ 8am
March 16	Last day to drop class with a "withdraw"
March 30	Room deposits (\$150) for Fall 2010 due
March 31	Room draw for 2010-11 school year
April 5	Easter Holiday (campus closed)
April 6-16	Early registration for Fall 2010 classes
April 13	Deadline to withdraw passing
April 24	Honors Banquet
April 22	Student Appreciation Day
April 25-26	Siblings' Weekend
April 28	Last day of classes
April 30-May 4	Final Exams
May 7	Baccalaureate
May 8	Commencement

Securing a Room for Next Year

Room Draw for the 2010- 2011 academic year is coming up on March 31, 2010! Prior to March 30, students will be asked to decide on where they would like to live in the fall. If they are living in the room they would like, with a roommate, and they have paid their non-refundable \$150.00 housing deposit, they have the opportunity to "squat" that room and keep it for the next year. If they are in a room alone, a single room or a double-single room, and they would like to have that room or a similar one for next year they must attend room draw. Additionally, if students want to change rooms or halls for the next year, they must also go to room draw. In order to attend room draw, the student must have their non-refundable \$150.00 room deposit paid by March 30th. Then, on the evening of March 31st, those participating in room draw will choose their rooms in order of semesters they have

lived on campus. In the event of a tie, or 2 people that want the same room, playing cards will be drawn



and the high card gets the first choice of rooms. This process will continue until everyone is housed for the fall. It is essential

that students pay their room deposits prior to March 30th, or they will not be given priority for fall housing. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Beth Tinsley, Director of Residence Life & Student Activities.

More information will be provided in the coming months. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Tinsley by email at elizabeth.tinsley@blackburn.edu or by phone at (217) 854-3231 x4287.

