



ANNUAL CONNECTIONS



Lasting Legacy



BLACKBURN
INSTITUTE
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Dr. John L Blackburn was Dean of Men at The University of Alabama when tensions were high over the desegregation of campus. He was instrumental in ensuring the peaceful integration of UA's two African American students into campus life. Five years have gone since Dr. John L. Blackburn passed away, but his legacy lives on through the Blackburn Institute and the multitude of lives he impacted.

Housed within the Division of Student Affairs, the Blackburn Institute strives to create a network of committed leaders who have a clear knowledge and understanding of the issues that face the State of Alabama. The Institute has evolved into a premier leadership organization at The University of Alabama. Each year approximately 30 students are selected to become members of the Blackburn Institute where they will participate in an engaging year-long curriculum. The Blackburn Institute aims to facilitate diversity of opinion, to call students to action, to provide opportunities to network through the generations, and to instill a lifetime commitment to the vision and mission of the Institute. Blackburn challenges students to be thoughtful in how they approach problems and to foster awareness of broad issues involved in civic responsibility.

Dr. Blackburn is remembered for asking students, "What have you done for the State of Alabama today?" and his lifelong mission reflected that challenge. He spent his career engaging students in meaningful dialogue and charging them with the task of leaving Alabama and the world better than they found it. The Blackburn Institute strives to continue this legacy by leaving a lasting impact on the State of Alabama through its commitment to the community and the wide network of Blackburn Fellows whose lives have been forever changed as a result of their time in this organization. All of this is a testament to the life and work of Dr. John L. Blackburn, a man this organization, university, and state owe a major debt of gratitude.

Blackburn Society 2014 Inductees:

Gloria Blackburn	Carol Patterson
Kathleen Cramer	Donald H. Patterson
Bill Baxley	Tom Patterson
Jim Hayes	Beverly Phifer
Sandra Hullett	Malcolm Portera
Harry Knopke	Julia Smeds Roth
F. David Mathews	John D. Saxon
Gaylon McCollough	Don Siegal
Susan McCollough	Donald Stewart
Marjorie Kay Nix	Connie Stockham
William O'Connor	Leonard Stolar
Donald Ray Pate, Jr.	Edgar Welden

The 20th Anniversary Symposium will feature the induction of the inaugural class of the Blackburn Society, an elite group of distinguished individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to the mission and ideals of the Blackburn Institute. These individuals exemplify the legacy left by Dr. John L Blackburn

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Fellows: *Where are they now?*



During conversations with longtime colleague and friend, Dr. Kathleen Cramer, Dr. John L. Blackburn requested that his legacy be preserved through a living, breathing organization that would develop ethical leaders focused on improving the future of the State of Alabama. Out of these conversations and this desire grew the Blackburn Institute and the rest, as they say, is history.

1998 saw Symposium transition to a new location at Guntersville State Park and the holding of the first Frank A. Nix Lecture. The focus of the '98 Symposium was "How Decisions are made in the State of Alabama." The following year, 1999, saw Symposium move again, this time to Tuscaloosa. The focus of that Symposium was Constitutional Reform, and the Nix Lecturer was Mr. Bill Baxley.

The 2002 Symposium was held at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. On the 10th anniversary of his novel conference championship, Mike Slive, Commissioner of the SEC, spoke as our Frank Nix Lecturer. Students participated in Travel Experiences to Marion, Birmingham, and Montgomery, where they witnessed Governor Bob Riley's inauguration. Blackburn moved selections to the spring allowing for a spring term and we began having monthly discourse dinners and on-campus lunches with leaders from across the state.

1994

1996

1998

2000

2002

2003

Symposium was held at Twin Pines Resort for the second year in a row, this year with the specific theme of "Who Matters Most in Alabama Politics?" Also this year, Mr. D. Ray Pate made a major contribution of \$50,000 to begin the process of building an endowment and establishing a sustainable program. The following year saw a third consecutive Symposium held at Twin Pines focusing on "NATO and the View from Eastern Europe." 1997 also played host to the creation of the Nix Lecture Series on Ethical Leadership with an endowment now totaling over \$500,000 that was raised by Advisory Board members.

The new millennium was an exciting time for the Institute. Symposium was held in Montgomery and coordinated by Blackburn Fellow Josh Hayes. The Frank Nix Lecturer was Lowell Barron, now-former Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives. The following year brought additional donations from the Advisory Board and subsequently an expansion in programming. The Symposium returned to Twin Pines resort and students embarked on the inaugural Burt Jones Travel Experience to Selma, thanks to the generosity of Tom and Carol Patterson. 2001 also saw a luncheon with Governor Siegelman and a legislative agenda breakfast as well as the creation of the annual D. Ray Pate Dinner.

By 2003, the Blackburn Institute was engaging students in a curriculum that stretched year-round. Fall discourse dinners were again held in the home of University faculty members, special lunches occurred with Burt Jones and Donald Stewart, Symposium was held in Birmingham, and Representative Artur Davis served as the Frank A. Nix Lecturer. Blackburn Students also began hosting deliberative discussions for all students on campus. Students traveled to Sumter County, Mobile, and Montgomery. The Institute also hosted a lively discussion with two Cuban scholars during UA's Cuban Scholars Week.

20 YEARS of Blackburn

The 2004 D. Ray Pate Dinner was held at Botanical Gardens in Birmingham. Students also traveled to Demopolis and Huntsville for the Burt Jones Travel Experiences. In addition to advisory board members, Blackburn Fellows for the first time ever joined current students on each trip. The following year, the Institute was able to expand the scope of the Frank A. Nix Lecture thanks to continued donations from the advisory board. The 2005 Nix Lecture brought Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw to campus for a public lecture. Focusing on the theme of Entrepreneurs and Creative Partnerships for Progressive Solutions, Blackburn also traveled to Greensboro, the Shoals, and Montgomery to meet with state and local leaders.

2004

2007 saw the creation of the Gloria and John L. Blackburn Academic Symposium thanks to the generosity of Donald and LuLu Stewart. The 2007-2009 D. Ray Pate Dinners were held at Vulcan Park in Birmingham. Burt Jones Travel Experiences took the Institute to Anniston, Moundville, and Wilcox County. Students also had the opportunity to travel to Montgomery as part of the Protective Life Government Experience. The 2008 Nix lecturer was President F.W. de Klerk, the last State President of apartheid-era South Africa, and a man credited with bringing that terrible chapter to a close.

2007

After a year at Renaissance Ross Bridge Resort, Symposium moved to the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel and featured keynote speaker Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, M. D. Students and fellows were invited on Travel Experiences to Birmingham where they met with financial leaders, Fayette where they learned about rural life and governance, and the Shoals region where they toured FAME Recording Studios, Alabama Chanin, and the University of North Alabama. The D. Ray Pate Dinner was held for the second time at B&A Warehouse in revitalized downtown Birmingham.

2012

2006

In 2006, the Institute was able to bring former NATO Supreme Allied Commander of Europe and 2004 presidential candidate General Wesley K. Clark (Ret.) to campus for the Frank A. Nix Lecture. Burt Jones Travel Experiences took students, fellows, and advisory board members to Huntsville and Alexander City. The first new member retreat was also held this year. The D. Ray Pate dinner was held at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, as it had been in 2005.

2010

The Healthcare Challenge in Alabama and Beyond was the focus of the 2010 Symposium held at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. The annual D. Ray Pate Dinner was held at the Birmingham Museum of Art. Students and fellows attended Travel Experiences that took them from Greensboro to Madison to Oneonta and Blount County where they learned about everything from aquaculture to the significance of the BRAC to north Alabama.

2014

This year marks a historic milestone for the Blackburn Institute. We are thrilled to be celebrating 20 years of turning Dr. John L. Blackburn's dream of developing ethical leaders into reality, and we are excited for the future of this unique, legendary organization!



Campus Curriculum

Overarching Values

- **Facilitating a diversity of opinion** by providing opportunities for students to experience all sides of issues impacting their communities as well as creating situations for open dialogue focused on fostering the resolution of issues rather than their mere identification.
- **Being called to action** by inspiring active citizenship as individuals and collectively by identifying and implementing strategic initiatives for the common good.
- **Networking through the generations** by providing opportunities for students and fellows to engage in dialogue and personal contact with advisory board members, faculty, community leaders, scholars, and political leaders.
- **Instilling a lifetime commitment** by providing a rich collegiate experience so that, upon graduation, fellows are encouraged not only to continue to foster relationships with the Blackburn Institute and its members, but to also uphold the ideals of the Institute in their daily lives.

The Vision

“My vision is to develop a community of ethical leaders who collaboratively accomplish good and noble ends.

A good community is comprised of more than one generation; embraces transcending values that esteem each citizen; and creates a sense of oneness where individuals set aside personal gain, benefit, or goal for the sake of the group.”

- Dr. John L. Blackburn

Leadership Approach

The Blackburn Institute serves as a premier leadership program of the The University of Alabama that is based on Dr. Blackburn's courageous example of student empowerment. Blackburn operates under the following assumptions regarding leadership:

- Leadership is socially responsible, and it impacts change on behalf of others.
- Leadership is collaborative.
- Leadership is based on self discovery and service, not a position.
- Leadership is inclusive and accessible to all people.
- Leadership is values-based.
- Community involvement/service is a powerful vehicle for leadership.





Individual Development

Built on the premise of developing leaders who will be called to action, the Blackburn Institute strives to develop:

Interpersonal Skills: Gives and receives constructive criticism and demonstrates an awareness of professional and social decorum

Self-Awareness: Possesses an understanding of personal perspectives, biases, emotions, and attitudes and recognizes personal strengths and potential for serving others

Empathy: Expresses a respect and appreciation for other people's perspectives, biases, emotions, and attitudes

Organizational Capacity

Guided by the values of facilitating a diversity of opinion and networking through the generations, the Blackburn Institute promotes:

Civility: Demonstrates respect and engages in open dialogue acknowledging multiple perspectives

Collaboration: Exhibits a willingness to work towards a shared respect of collective aims, values, and vision with people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives

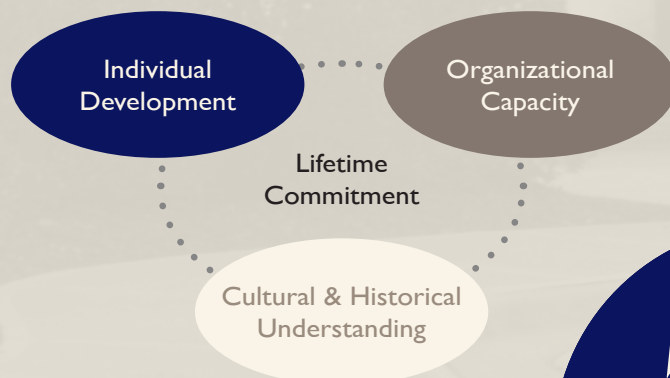
Stewardship: Maximizes one's time, talents, and resources in the interest of the collective good

Cultural and Historical Understanding of Alabama

Based on the idea that to improve the State of Alabama, one must understand the state's people, places, and history, the Blackburn Institute emphasizes:

Contextualization: Understands the uniqueness of Alabama's people, places, and history

Conceptualization: Applies the knowledge and skills gained through an individual's experiences within the Blackburn Institute to construct a personal vision to improve the quality of life in the State of Alabama





Burt Jones Travel Experiences are a major component of the Blackburn Institute's leadership development curriculum. Named for the director of Palmer Hall during James Hood's time as a resident, these experiences are designed to get students out onto the byways and highways of Alabama and engaged in dynamic learning about the state. Blackburn Students, Fellows, and Advisory Board Members are presented with the opportunity to interact with state and local leaders in their native environment all while sinking their teeth into local culture. As you can see from the adjacent map, these Travel Experiences have taken the Institute to almost every corner of the state, providing our students, fellows, and advisory board members a wide breadth of experiential knowledge they can utilize in their pursuit of a better Alabama.

Day/Local Trips

Each year, one Burt Jones Travel Experience is dedicated to taking Blackburn Students, Fellows, and Advisory Board Members on a day trip to a local community. These trips provide the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of the governance and culture of communities near the Tuscaloosa area.

Overnight/Regional Trips

These Travel Experiences are cornerstones of the Blackburn curriculum, taking the Institute on in-depth explorations of the major regions of Alabama. These excursions are intentionally planned with a broad focus, so that students, fellows, and advisory board members get a wide glimpse of places such as the Shoals, the Plains, the Wiregrass, and the Blackbelt.

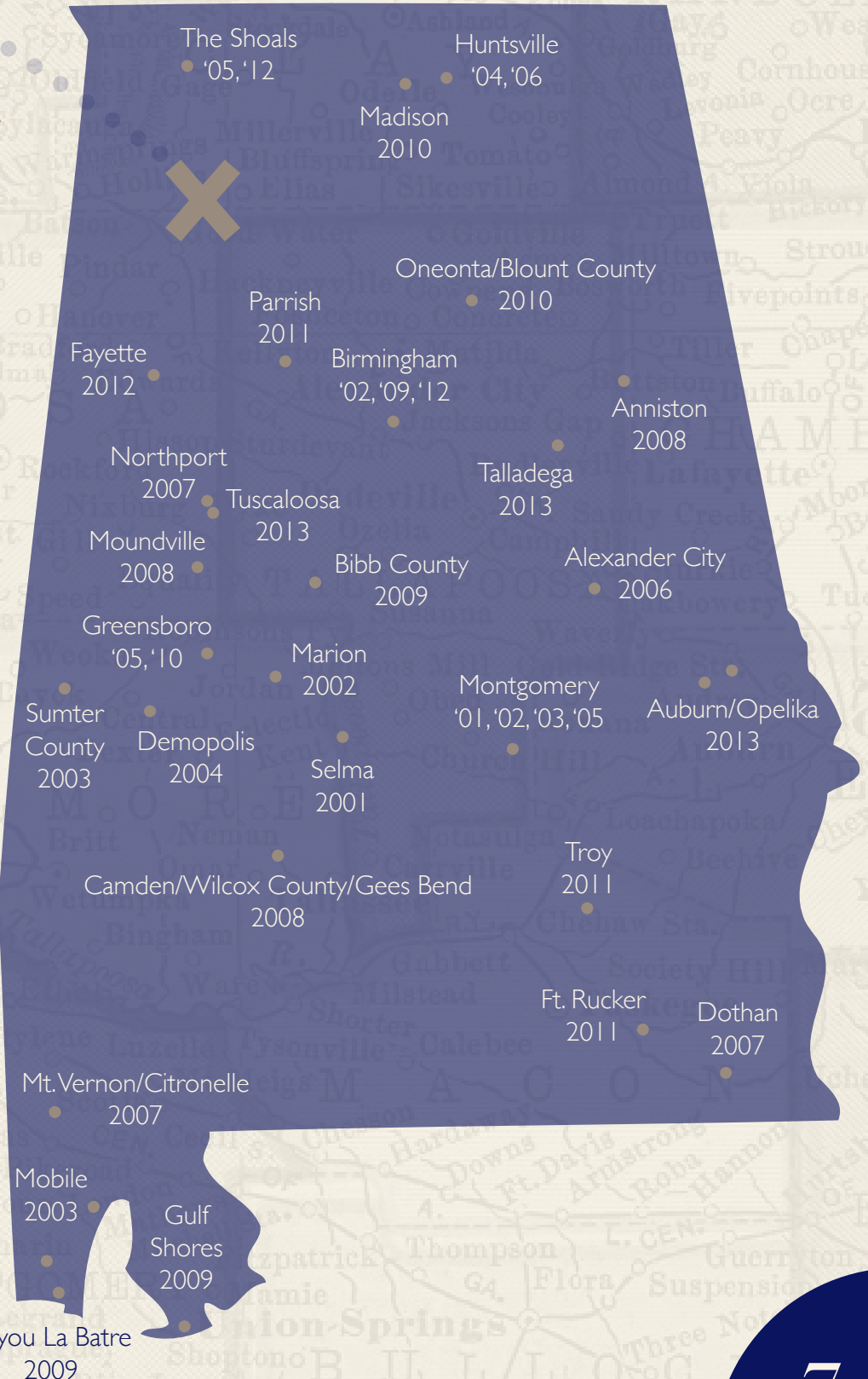
Special Topic Trips

The Institute strives to take at least one trip annually designated as a special topic trip. These trips have included excursions focused on a theme or issue impacting Alabama such as, healthcare, banking, and rural development to places such as Birmingham, Huntsville, and Greensboro.

Oh, the places you'll go...

The Burt Jones *Travel Experience*

traveled
6,956
miles
to
33
communities
with
507
community
& statewide
leaders





Montgomery Protective Life Government Experience

Annually since 2007, Blackburn Institute students and fellows have been afforded the opportunity to participate in the Montgomery Protective Life Government Experience. This enriching trip to Alabama's capital is designed to be a direct reflection, and in some ways, a culmination of the Blackburn Institute Curriculum. In order to foster individual development, build organizational capacity, and enhance cultural and historical understanding of the state, the Protective Life Government Experience is carefully crafted to include a variety of enriching activities. The Institute has coordinated these activities to reflect those desires and they include discussions with elected officials, cultural experiences, historical explorations, various other sessions with policy makers and opinion leaders, professional development workshops, and group reflection sessions.

By the numbers

58

Average Attendance

5

Elected
Officials

12

Personal & Professional
Development
Workshops

13

Policy Makers
& Opinion
Leaders



6

Cultural Experiences &
Historical Explorations

Policy Makers & Opinion Leaders

As is common in the political realm, power is not consolidated solely in the hands of elected officials. Power and influence are wielded by many different players that make up the fabric of Alabama's leadership landscape. The

Protective Life Government Experience has continued to be a rich forum for these influential policy makers and opinion leaders. Recent years have seen a host of highly influential Alabamians addressing the Institute.

- Bill Jones, UA System Lobbyist
- Bill O'Connor, Franklin Resources Group, Blackburn Advisory Board
- Dr. David Bronner, CEO, Retirement Systems of Alabama
- Morris Dees, Founder & Chief Trial Attorney, Southern Poverty Law Center
- Dr. Marquita Davis, State Finance Director
- Ron Sparks, Rural Development Director
- Dr. Henry Mabry, Director, Alabama Education Association
- Miriam Gaines, Nutrition & Physical Activity Director
- Dr. Tommy Bice, Superintendent of the Alabama Department of Education
- Kevin Turner, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Blackburn Advisory Board
- James Sumner, Director of the Alabama Ethics Commission
- Jon Barganier, Governor's Senate Liaison and Policy Director
- John Matson, Director of Communications, Alabama Nursing Home Administration

Elected Officials

Visiting with elected officials directly correlates with building our organizational capacity. Blackburn Students are well-versed in the values of civility, collaboration, and stewardship. They employ these values working with and learning from elected officials from across the ideological spectrum. In recent years, the Blackburn Institute has had the opportunity to interact with a wide variety of elected officials on our Protective Life Government Experience.

- Young Boozer, State Treasurer
- Bryan Taylor, State Senator, Blackburn Fellow
- Quinton Ross, State Senator
- Joe Hubbard, State Representative
- Judge Scott Donaldson, Alabama Court of Civil Appeals

Cultural Experiences & Historical Explorations

A thorough understanding of historical and cultural context is integral to becoming an effective leader. Alabama occupies an incredibly unique place in our society, and emerging state leaders must have a firm grasp on the complexities of this state in order to develop a personal vision of how to improve it. The Protective Life Government Experience is a major conduit for the Institute to provide cultural and historical immersion to our students.

- State Capitol Building Tour
- Alabama Shakespeare Festival
- Historic District Walking Tour
- Rosa Parks Museum Tour
- Old Alabama Town
- Museum of Alabama, State Archives

Personal Development

Developing ethical leaders is a fundamental goal of the Blackburn Institute. The Protective Life Government Experience integrates several activities geared towards preparing our students for this challenge.

- Travel Experience 101
- Reflection Sessions
- Question Etiquette
- Formal Dinner Etiquette

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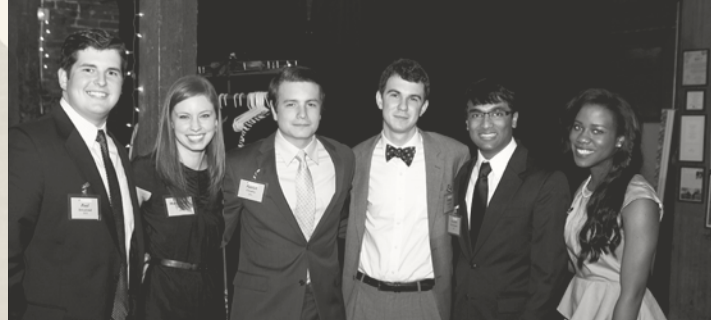
D. Ray Pate Dinner



Advisory board members, fellows and students enjoy warm camaraderie and fantastic food while they network through the generations at our annual D. Ray Pate Dinner. This marquee event has been held at Birmingham's B&A Warehouse for the past four years. The space and atmosphere of this exclusive event venue, located in revitalized downtown Birmingham across the street from Railroad Park, has served our needs incredibly well. The Institute always looks forward to celebrating together in this uniquely Alabama locale.

The dinner features an informal reception time where everyone has the opportunity to mingle and converse, then a formal plated meal before the evening's program. The program consists of the pinning ceremony for Blackburn seniors preparing to graduate, as well as the formal welcome of the Blackburn New Student class into the Institute.

The D. Ray Pate Dinner has traditionally been held in the fall semester, but it was decided that the dinner's role of welcoming students into the Institute fit better into the Blackburn curriculum during the spring, with our Academic Symposium moving to the fall. The dinner now serves as one of the new class' first experiences with the Institute, where they immediately begin interacting with Students, Fellows, Board Members, and friends of Blackburn from The University of Alabama community.



Pinned Fellows

Hansen Babington	Hayden Gunter	Edward O'Neal
Olivia Bensinger	Coleman Humphrey	Mary Sellers Shaw
Justin Bond	Katie Jackson	Genie Smith
John Brinkerhoff	Brennan Johnson	Chelsea Southard
Zack Freeman	Koushik Kasanagottu	Paul Strickland
Marlan Golden	Lauren Marsh	Madalyn Vaughn
Ross Green	Ally Martin	Chandler Wright



Annual Symposium

The Institute's Annual Symposium is a weekend conference for Blackburn Students, Fellows, and Advisory Board Members. These symposiums began in 1995 as the Blackburn Institute's first event as a gathering place for intergenerational dialogue on events and issues impacting the state. The Annual Symposium has evolved over the years, but remains as the Blackburn Institute's signature event with members traveling from around the state and nation to attend lectures and conference sessions, participate in meaningful discussions, and expand their personal network through meeting new people and reconnecting with old acquaintances.

Gloria and John L. Blackburn Academic Symposium

The purpose of the Gloria and John L. Blackburn Academic Symposium ("Blackburn Academic Symposium") is to present current knowledge, theory, and practice concerning a variety of issues related to economic, political, and quality-of life issues facing Alabama and the nation and to encourage open discussion of the symposium topics. Presenters will be individuals whose expertise and scholarship best explicate the topics under discussion and who represent a variety of viewpoints, fields of academic study, and areas of expertise.

20th Anniversary Symposium

This year's Blackburn Annual Symposium marks the 20th Anniversary of the Institute. Students, Fellows, Board Members, and other members of the UA community will celebrate this occasion with a keynote presentation open to the general public. This lecture will be given by host of MSNBC's Morning Joe, former US Congressman, and graduate of The University of Alabama, Joe Scarborough. Additionally, the weekend will be filled with a series of sessions designed to highlight "Alabama Voices" with topics ranging from philanthropy and activism, to media and culture. This 20th Anniversary will also feature the induction of the inaugural class of the Blackburn Society, an elite group of distinguished individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to the mission and ideals of the Blackburn Institute.

Frank A. Nix Lecture Series

The Annual Symposium also serves as a home for a campus/community lecture series: The Frank A. Nix Lecture on Ethical Leadership. These events are open to the public, and members of the campus and surrounding communities are encouraged to attend and hear presentations from speakers of prominence and substance.

Highlighted Past Speakers

- Admiral Thad Allen, US Coast Guard
- Dr. Benjamin Carson, *New York Times* bestselling author
- John Cochran, ABC News
- General Wesley Clark, US Army
- President F.W. de Clerk, South Africa
- Michele Norris, National Public Radio
- Mike Slive, Commissioner, SEC
- Dr. Condoleeza Rice, former US Secretary of State
- Bob Woodward, Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist

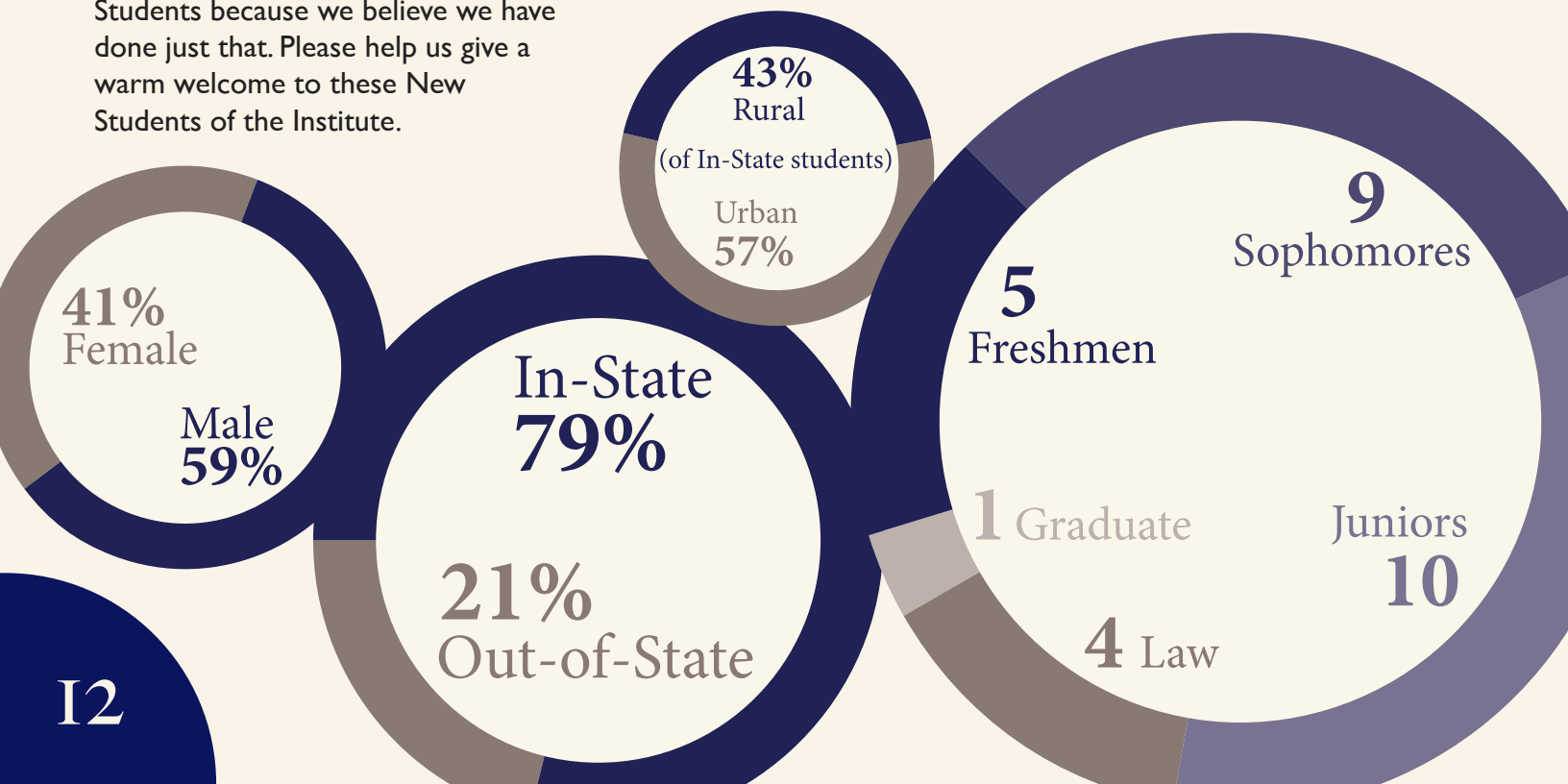


Front (Left to Right): Barrett Bowdre, Kevyn Armstrong-Wright, Olivia Atkinson, Hannah Zahedi, Erin Mosley, Alexandra Smith, Shuwen Yue, Danielle Cassady, Chelsea Caveny, Mary Leib
Middle: Andrew McWhorter, Parker Alison, Henry Downes, Peyton Hicks, Aaron Brazelton, Robert Pendley, Christian Shannon, Jackson Britton, Anna Carroll, Kimberly Smith
Rear: James Kemp, Aaron Howard, John Booth, Alex Marsh, John David Thompson, Caleb Lundy, John Pounders, AJ James
**Not Pictured:* Lauren Breland

2014 New Students

Careful selection of each new student class is vital to maintaining the efficacy of the Insitute. In order to build an intergenerational network of ethical leaders, one must first select individuals that possess strong leadership skills and ethical tendencies, who are open to new ideas and approaches. The goal of the Blackburn Institute extends beyond merely connecting leaders and building our own organizational capacity; it is about building the capacity to learn and the capacity to lead within students of the Institute. We are extremely excited about the 2014 class of Blackburn

Students because we believe we have done just that. Please help us give a warm welcome to these New Students of the Institute.



Blackburn Fellows

Where are they now?

50

100

150

200

250

300

350

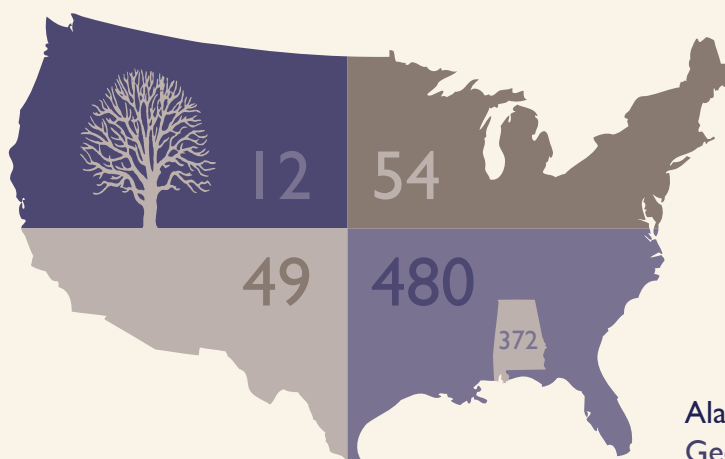


Alaska	3
Minnesota	3
Washington	3
Oregon	2
Wyoming	1



DC	14
New York	12
Maryland	8
Ohio	5
Illinois	4
Michigan	3
Pennsylvania	3
N. Hampshire	2
Connecticut	1
Illinois	1
Indiana	1

Birmingham	157
Tuscaloosa	112
Montgomery/ River Region	22
Huntsville	31
Gulf Coast	14
Northeast Corridor	9
Wiregrass	8
Blackbelt	7
Auburn/ Opelika	6
Shoals Region	6



Texas	24
California	17
Colorado	6
New Mexico	1
Kansas	1



Alabama	372
Georgia	35
Virginia	20
Tennessee	19
N. Carolina	11
Florida	10
Louisiana	8
Missouri	4
Mississippi	4
Kentucky	2
S. Carolina	1
Arkansas	1

372 total
Fellows
in Alabama

Fellows Abroad



Argentina	Germany
Brazil	Netherlands
China	Singapore
Columbia	Spain
Cyprus	Taiwan
Denmark	United Kingdom

2014 Blackburn Advisory Board:

J. Norman Baldwin	Leroy Nix
Jenna Bedsole	Marjorie Nix
Gloria Blackburn	William O'Connor
Kyle Buchanan	Tom & Carol Patterson
Cheree Causey	Alejandro Perez
Ray Cole	Holly Piper
Jon David Conolley	Redding Pitt
Mark Cooper	Eric Pruitt
John Covington	Zac Riddle
Kathleen Cramer	John Saxon
Bradley Davidson	Don & Bobbie Siegal
David Donaldson	Jim Simon
Corey Ealons	Lynwood Smith
J. David Ellwanger	Joan Smith
Cleophus "J.R." Gaines	Victoria Starks
Fournier "Boots" Gale	Donald Stewart
Mike House	Leonard Stolar
Sandral Hullett	Chris Strong
G. Douglas Jones	Andre Taylor
Ann Jones	Louise Thibodaux
Mark Martin	Tracy Thompson
Gordon Martin	Kevin Turner
F. David Mathews	Joel Williams
P. Doug McCraw	James Wilson
Marion McIntosh	

