



2016

New
Students
page 5

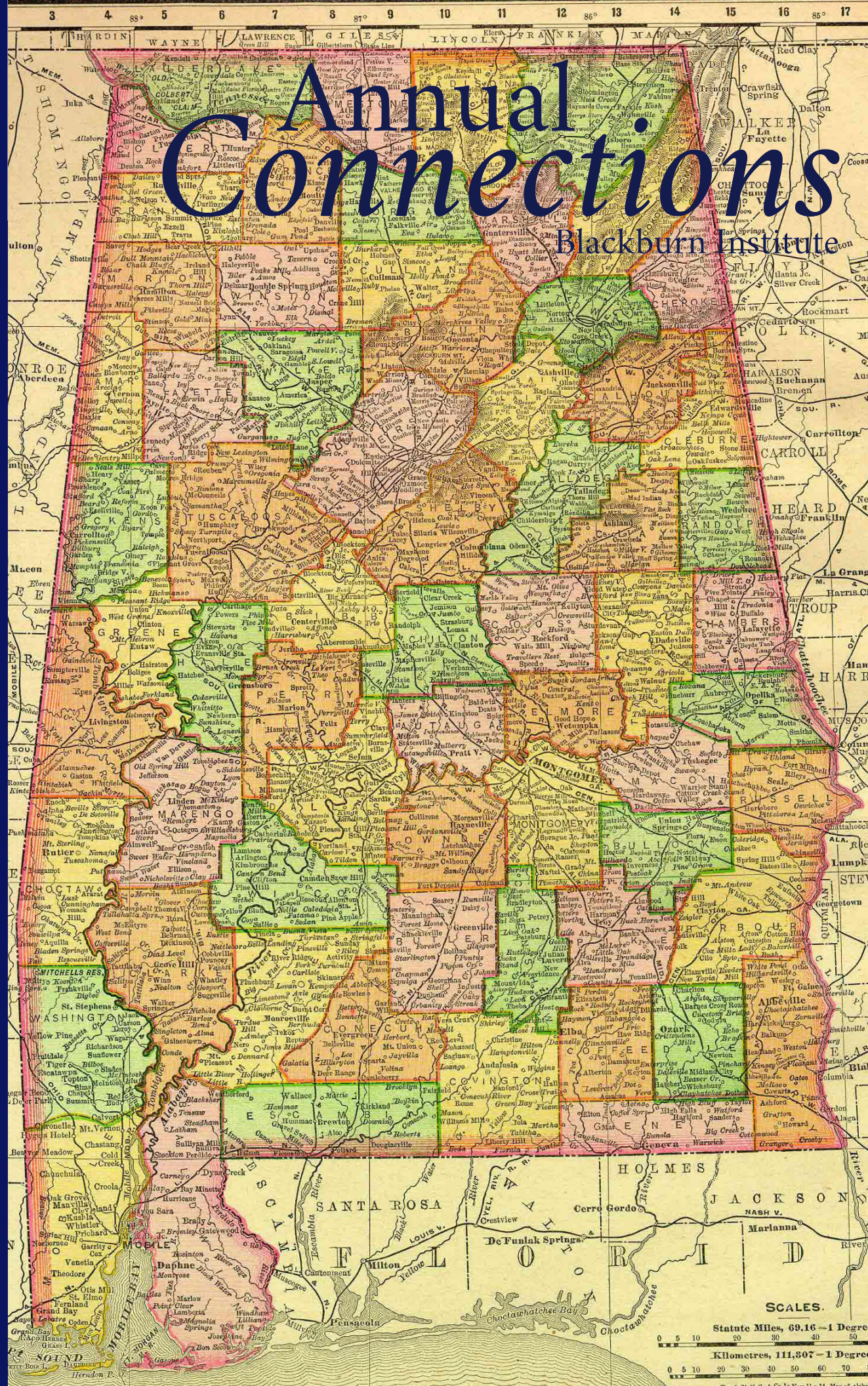
Daniel
Community
Scholars
page 7

New
Fellows
page 8

Dates to
Remember
page 15



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA





Inside This Issue



5

Director's Message 3

Student Profile 4

New Students 5

Our Foundation 6

Daniel Community Scholars 7

2016 Pinned Fellows 8

Fellow Profile 9

Fellows Programming 10

Advisory Board Profile 11

Advisory Board 13

Looking Ahead 14

Dates To Remember 15

10



Director

R. Mac Griswold, Ph.D.

Program Assistant

Darcel Green

Pictured on Cover:
1895 map of Alabama

Pictured Above:
2016 Class of Students at D. Ray Pate New
Student Retreat



BLACKBURN
INSTITUTE
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

Issue No. 3

Annual Connections is published each year by
the Blackburn Institute staff in conjunction
with our Annual Symposium.

Please send address contact information
changes, professional updates, or ideas to
blackburninstitute@sa.ua.edu.

14



Director's Message

The Blackburn Institute kicks off the new academic year with its Annual Symposium and the theme, "The Engaged Citizen: Working for a Better Alabama and Nation." Tied directly to the mission of the institute, this theme emphasizes the value of taking action to improve our society.

Attendees at this year's symposium have the opportunity to learn about the roles and responsibilities of individuals in political campaigns, how candidates connect with and engage the electorate, how citizens can discern fact from opinion in the media. These tracks offer different perspectives of the ways in which we can be engaged in society and work for change.

We are taught that politics, religion, and sex are taboo topics for polite conversation, but I invite you to discuss the world of politics as a vehicle for change. Not the

partisanship that divides us in many respects, but the politics that shape our local, state, and federal governments' policies and programs. I challenge you to dive into the sessions with an enthusiasm and interest that will help you become more engaged in our communal work.

This work took on new forms in some changed and expanded programs in the 2015-16 academic year and, as a year of change, we were also challenged to adapt. The Blackburn Institute saw the transition of two staff members, Dr. Mary Lee Caldwell and Mrs. Candace Peters, to new roles on campus. Each will continue to serve UA students as director of student governance and citizenship and academic advisory for the Culverhouse School of Accountancy, respectively. Mrs. Peters' successor, Ms. Darcel Green, began in her role as program assistant in mid-July and has been a welcome addition to our community.

In terms of programming for the institute, 2015-16 was a year of successes. The revised format of the Burt Jones Travel Experience was well-received, with

over fifty participants gaining insights into the Wiregrass region of the state over four days in late October. The Daniel Community Scholars program



accepted applications from Fellows and supported a start-up non-profit organization through seed funding and a community-based Fellow's work.

Finally, the pilot of the Summer Mentorship Experience paired two Blackburn Fellows and a faculty mentor with two Blackburn Students. These students gained valuable skills, developed relationships with Blackburn Fellows, and engaged in work that directly impacted the state of Alabama over the course of the summer.

The Blackburn Institute's twenty second year of operations closed with announcement of a new class of forty one students at the Spring Networking Dinner and they have a bright future ahead of them! ☺

“The Engaged Citizen: Working for a Better Alabama and Nation”



Mary Lieb

Mary Lieb is a graduate student at The University of Alabama studying Communication Studies. She recently graduated from UA where she served in a variety of leadership roles including Honors College President and Student Government Association Director of Communication. In these positions, she enjoyed working with teams to discover new and exciting ways to engage students. This year, she will serve as Student Chair of the Blackburn Institute, and she looks forward to learning more about Alabama and the communication methods that play a vital role in its development. After graduation, she hopes to use her skills to help others communicate ideas that will help make people's lives better. She believes great work can happen anywhere.

What has been your most meaningful experience as a member of the Blackburn Institute?

When I first arrived at The University of Alabama, I was greeted by students from a number of places across the United States and

around the globe. We were able to share our unique experiences about why we loved the places we came from and what made our homes so special. Within these conversations, I recognized that although I knew a lot about where I was raised, there was so much to uncover about what it meant to be a student at The University of Alabama and more importantly, what it meant to be a new resident in the state of Alabama. The Blackburn Institute offered me an opportunity to explore answers to questions that extended further than the borders of UA's campus.

My most meaningful experiences with the Blackburn Institute have happened during the institute's travel experiences. When we visit communities unlike my own, I learn about the sacrifices, struggles and victories of people simply working to make their homes better for their families and for future generations. This past fall when we visited Pike Road, Alabama, I saw the steps local community members had made to pave a path towards education that better suited their needs. We met with people who were champions in their own right. They seemed to know that their accomplishments would go largely unrecognized by official honors or plaques, but were willing to invest their talents and

skills for the chance to open doors to more opportunities in years to come. From school teachers to politicians, Blackburn has introduced me to theories of public service that incorporate the tireless work from citizens who work countless hours even when there is no clear solution to complex challenges. In hearing their stories, I have learned how to lead better, how to listen more intentionally and how to shape a lofty goal into tangible reality.

What does leadership mean to you?

I believe that great leaders create an environment that allows others to thrive. Leadership is hope, it is resilience and it is the willingness to believe that things can always be better. But more than that, I think leadership is the motivation to work towards those goals. Blackburn focuses on ethical leadership, and at a time where our campus, state and national political scenes seem riddled with controversy and questionable decisions, I see my fellow members make choices each day that work to put aside their personal gain for the benefit of those around them. Their curious nature as leaders makes us better, and over time, each conversation together becomes easier to have. Despite our different experiences, we are connected by Dr. Blackburn's fundamental value that together, we make each other better, and in turn can begin transforming our worlds.



New Students

Lieb (continued)

How do you think Blackburn students can contribute to the Institute's values?

I have made some of my greatest Blackburn memories just by showing up. Being invited into a room of peers who are all infinitely more informed about any issue we discuss has not only allowed me to grow intellectually, but also taught me how to agree, disagree and collaborate more effectively. Sometimes the discussions we have in the Blackburn office are difficult. We each only know our own story, and sometimes we don't have a defined viewpoint on the topic yet. But when we have the opportunity to engage and listen, we learn more about ourselves and the world around us.

What role do you see the Blackburn Institute playing on campus?

Blackburn's role on campus is powerful. The Institute brings leaders, both in positions of leadership and students who haven't found their niche yet. Throughout all of

Blackburn's activities we develop relationships and invest in each other's lives. We create a bridge across common humanities. Blackburn combines our love of Alabama and our willingness to try and make a difference. In order to contribute to something greater than ourselves, I think we first must learn about what makes our community what it is. Blackburn offers the outlet to do that and to create bonds with people who may not be like-minded, but who are like motivated.

What lessons do you hope current and future Blackburn students will learn while on campus?

One of the first transformative moments I had within the Blackburn Institute was when I realized that my experiences were not universal. And with this realization also came the understanding that different experiences didn't need to create a barrier between people. Not only could different beliefs lead to healthy dialogue, but they could lead to friendships that extend far beyond any Blackburn event. Invest in the people and experience around you because you never know what you might be able to learn from them. ∞

2016 New Students

.....



Row 1: Ryan Coleman, Chandler Shields, Caitlin Cobb, Sophia Warner, Camille Carr, Dwyer Freeman, Tori Leonard, Jessica Tolbert, Mollie Gillis, James Clinton, Kristen Chambliss, Amber Scales, Maya Perry, Andrea Hayes, and Millicent Krebs

Row 2: Ronald Nelson, Rob Grady, Melissa Mathews, Akiesha Anderson, Jilisa Milton, Patrick Fitzgerald, Nivory Gordon, Ada Katherine van Wyhe, Kelsei Coleman, Alex Smith, and Jimmy Pritchett

Row 3: Carson Ford, William Bounds, Dalton Beasley, Josh Fuller, Ryan Truitt, Becca Michel, David Turner, Phuong Nguyen, and Tucker Martin

Row 4: Jared Hunter, Chris Lancaster, Ibukun Afon, and Cameron Harris

Not Pictured: Madeleine Lewis and Dana Sweeney

Our Foundation

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

Mission

The mission of the Blackburn Institute is to develop a network of diverse leaders who understand the challenges facing the state of Alabama and the nation and who are committed to serving as agents of positive change.

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.

ANNUAL
SYMPOSIUM



BLACKBURN INSTITUTE
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

During a weekend filled with opportunities to learn about issues of state and national concern, Blackburn Students, Fellows, and Advisory Board Members connect with one another and campus and community partners at the Institute's marquee event: the Blackburn Annual Symposium. The Annual Symposium is also the home of the Frank A. Nix Lecture on Ethical Leadership and the Gloria and John L. Blackburn Academic Symposium in alternating years.

Formerly known as the D. Ray Pate Dinner, this premier event for the Institute is a time for reconnection, fellowship, and celebration. Held in Birmingham, the Blackburn Institute comes together for an evening designed to welcome its newest students, to congratulate its graduates, and to reaffirm the Institute's mission and values.

SPRING NETWORKING DINNER



BLACKBURN INSTITUTE | DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Daniel Community Scholars

Thanks to generous support from the Daniel Foundation of Alabama, members of the Blackburn Institute are given the opportunity to put the Institute's values into action by developing proposals for a project that will better their community. New Students work as small groups to turn their ideas for community improvement into reality as they compete for funding through the Daniel Community Scholars competition. Students and fellows are also encouraged to submit additional proposals to start sustainable community initiatives throughout the state.



Heirloom Harvest



In January 2016, funding was awarded to three Fellows for their roles in building a new, Alabama-based non-profit organization. Bradley Davidson (2002 Fellow), Jennifer Traywick Mims (2001 Fellow), and Will Dodd (2012 Fellow) were three-quarters of the team that started Heirloom Harvest, an organization dedicated to supporting and connecting local farmers and restaurants.

The first grant was to assist with organizational development and helped provide seed funding for start-up costs, such as printing, website development, and

promotional materials. The second grant was in the form of funding for a Resident Daniel Community Scholar, Will Dodd, who served 20+ hours per week in the start-up phase of the organization. His task was to conduct a state-wide survey of farms to identify farms, crops grown, anticipated yield, and acreage.

In a seven-month period, the organization has increased its visibility through direct outreach to farms, participation in industry conferences, and meeting with governmental officials. Heirloom Harvest is already being promoted by organizations including the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries and the Alabama Councils of Soil and Water Conservation

Districts as a resource for information on produce production on small farms.

Heirloom Harvest also made a name for itself in Alabama's 2016 blackberry season as it connected Harvison Farms, a brand new farm in Monroe County, to multiple new markets across central Alabama. During the two-month blackberry season, the organization delivered hundreds of pounds of fresh, Alabama-grown berries to multiple restaurants, breweries, and creameries across the Birmingham metro area.

Watch for more from this group in the coming year! ∞



2016 Pinned Fellows



Row 1: Michael Moore, Meghan Dorn, Alex Smith, Vel Lewis, Leigh Terry, Yarden Wolf, Katie Plott, Shuwen Yue, Amanda Bennett
Row 2: John Roberts, Polly Ricketts, Olivia Atkinson, Lindsey Smith, Mark Hammontree, Frank Foley, Undré Smith, Will Sorrell, John Pounders
Row 3: Landon Nichols, Nick Roy, Parker Alison, Alex Marsh, Will Gonzalez, John David Thompson, Al Gilani, Chisolm Allenlundy, Andrew Cicero
Not Pictured: Jackson Britton, Anna Carroll, Chelsea Caveny, Archie Creech, Henry Downes, Sahar Ezez, Aaron Howard, A.J. James, Ronte Pritchett, Eric Roddy, Christian Shannon, Elliot Spillers, Warner Thompson, and Hashuluv Watson



Dana Lewis is a thinker, doer, and teacher of health and digital things—and the unexpected developer of a do-it-yourself closed loop artificial pancreas. As a result, Dana founded the #OpenAPS movement to make safe and effective artificial pancreas technology more widely available. She created and moderates #hcsn, the global healthcare social media community that meets weekly on Twitter, and works at the intersection of all things health and digital. Professionally, Dana serves as Director of MDigitalLife for W2O Group, helping organizations understand, engage, and activate the online health ecosystem.

How were you involved as a student at The University of Alabama and what connection does that involvement have to your life today?

I was involved in a number of ways as an undergraduate, both on and off campus. I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes as a freshman in high school and thus was actively involved in advocacy work for people with diabetes during my time on campus – even missing classes from time to time, including flying to DC to testify before the U.S. Senate HELP committee and also missing my freshman honors philosophy exam in order to represent the U.S. at the 2006 World Diabetes Congress in South Africa. I couldn't resist being engaged on campus, either, especially when there were so many opportunities (challenges) to address. One of the main ones that sticks in my mind was dealing with the dining halls and attempting to navigate the lack of nutrition information available across campus. This led me to work directly with Bama Dining to create a nutrition label program, so nutrition

labels would be placed at the point of service for just about every item, every day, in addition to providing a digital kiosk outside so you could peruse the menu and have more information at your fingertips to make decisions about what to eat.

One other thing I did as an undergraduate, which bridges into my work today, was creating and moderating the first healthcare chat on Twitter, #hcsn. I started it because I thought instead of reaching out to leaders in healthcare to discuss how they're using social media individually, it would save a lot of time to get together and discuss it all together. Eight years later, we're still chatting every Sunday night at 8pm Central! Because of my work with creating the #hcsn community I was persuaded to move to Seattle and work for a non-profit health system (Swedish), and encouraged to keep up my involvement in #hcsn, the diabetes space, and everything else I was doing. My "involvement" in these extracurricular areas has been what has landed me every job I've had in my career, and it's been a big part of the rest of my life, too. More so now that, in my spare time, I am building diabetes tools that I personally use (#OpenAPS, a DIY closed loop artificial pancreas) and are now being used by hundreds of other people around the world!

How do you view your work as part of a community effort to build the network of "ethical leaders who collaboratively

Dana Lewis

accomplish good and noble ends" envisioned by Dr. Blackburn?

I've noticed a trend where I often start pursuing a solution to my own problem, but find that my solution can serve other people, and soon shift to making that solution available to a broader community of people wherever possible. I've been fascinated to tap into the open source community, which I wasn't really a part of before diving into #OpenAPS. But as I've started working with them through #OpenAPS, I've been pleasantly surprised to see just how many people are these very ethical leaders who collaboratively accomplish SO much good. However, they don't always view or categorize themselves as "leaders", even when their very work makes them so. As such, they're not always thinking big picture about how their work could be expanded or linked to do even



Lewis (continued)

more good than they originally intended. Some of my 'work' has been encouraging and facilitating this sharing and networking of individuals and communities to further expand their work. The more these individuals can scale their work and connect with others, the more this network of leaders continues to grow!

As a Blackburn Fellow who lives outside of Alabama, what advice would you give to those that are similarly situated and want to continue living the mission of the Blackburn Institute?

One thing that helps, regardless of your geography, is surrounding yourself with people who are living the mission, even if they don't know about John L. and his work! And this can be surrounding yourself online, too. One way I've felt able to stay connected is through online channels. I encourage reading what others are doing and "lurking" if you're not actively part of a particular group, but also don't hesitate to share your own experiences and thoughts about how to be the change you want to see in the world – from what I've learned, you'll never know who you might inspire next to go out and do exactly that. ☺



Danielle Blevins

How to Live a Blackburn Lifestyle in a DC Life

Danielle Blevins is a 2007 Fellow currently living in Washington, DC and working as a United States Supreme Court Correspondent for Talk Media News.

It is one thing to live in Alabama and be part of the Blackburn Institute, but what does it mean when you live almost 800 miles away? How does one live a Blackburn lifestyle in Washington, D.C.? These questions and more were tackled one evening in late April by a group of Blackburn Fellows in the office of Blackburn Fellow and Advisory Board member Corey Ealons at VOXGlobal. Facilitated by Blackburn Fellow David Eagles, attendees shared ideas about what it means to be part of the institute and a member of the network outside of the state of Alabama.

Many are lured to this city as an epicenter of history, power, and change. Alabama, however, means more to Blackburn Fellows than a mere song sung by Lynyrd Skynyrd; with the demands of day-to-day life and work, the refrain is not often heard around these parts. While sharing common experiences with other fellows, participants brainstormed meaningful ways to be involved as an ambassador of the state. They weighed the ability to be connected to the state through technological engagement with direct, personal immersion. One fellow said, "The institute is my lifeline to the state." With that sentiment, fellows expressed their desire to know more about the substantive things occurring in the state, rather than just treading water through headlines and soundbites.

The fast-paced lifestyle many lead in D.C. makes the stakes that much higher for those who deeply care about the direction the state heads. The demands of living away from home in Washington make it difficult to return to the state, something most fellows living outside of Alabama realize. From "cultivating a spirit of public service" in student fellows and participating in the new mentorship program, more than anything, fellows expressed their desire to contribute lasting benefits for the future of the Blackburn network and the state of Alabama from the D.C. area.

Excited about seeing the network energized, fellows offered different ways they would like to see the Blackburn Network active in the D.C. metro area. Recognizing the importance of their life-long commitment, participants are enthusiastically looking forward to the next substantive gathering of Blackburn Fellows in the nation's capital. Looking at everyday as way to make a positive impact, fellows walked away with new ideas to complement their DC life as they live a life of Blackburn values. ☺

Marion McIntosh

Marion S. McIntosh is a 2005 Blackburn Fellow and has been a member of the Advisory Board since 2012. Marion graduated from The University of Alabama with B.S. and M.S. degrees in Industrial Engineering. He currently works as a Process Engineer at Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC. Marion also serves on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Mathematics, Science, & Engineering Coalition (AMSTEC), a network of dedicated state, education, and public policy stakeholders working for systematic change in STEM education. He's also a Life Member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

What would you say has been the most meaningful experience as a member of the Advisory Board?

It's impossible to pinpoint just one definitive experience as there are way too many. One example I can recall is running into the Siegals at a function outside of the Institute that Honda sent me to as the company representative. I was greeted with that same Blackburn hug and smile that is characteristic

of Ms. Bobbie, and that coy grin and welcoming handshake of Mr. Don. And they proceeded to introduce me to some very accomplished individuals at that particular event. It's motivation for me. I concede, sometimes I don't feel accomplished enough to sit on this Board. However, one day soon, I will be.

How has your involvement with the Blackburn Institute changed over time?

I've always made it a point to maintain a positive relationship with every Director of the Institute. As a result, I've had the opportunity to participate at numerous events by volunteering to moderate, host, and speak whenever needed. Thus, my involvement hasn't changed much; I've tried to be relatively consistent throughout the years. I get busy with my career at times just like anyone else, but I try to make time for Blackburn events as much as possible.

What are your views on servant leadership and how have you integrated those into your personal life and your work with Blackburn?

Fortunately, servant leadership has been a part of my life long before I joined the Institute. Whether it was the National Society of Black Engineers, where I served on a Regional Board and as Chapter

President, or my fraternity, serving others through mentoring, tutoring, and positively influencing is something that I've believed in for years and try to practice daily. Servant leadership is something that I feel is characteristic in most Blackburn Fellows, from student, to career, to family life. I mentor young engineers at work, particularly Black males who seek out my advice, and just recently, I became chair of my next family reunion. The greatest rewards in life are the people you help and the things that you don't necessarily get paid for.

Blackburn has taught me to always consider "who's not in the room" and we even have a similar school of thought at work where we routinely reference "standing up for people in meetings they aren't invited to." Equally as important, another philosophy I've learned is discourse with the main goal of exchanging ideas and understanding instead of winning an argument or debate. Often, we can't get past our own views, but it helps to simply understand the other side. Listening has to be just as important, if not more important, than speaking to be a good Blackburn Fellow. It's what makes our organization stand out from the rest.

What has been your most significant contribution to the State of Alabama?

May I answer this question honestly? I haven't contributed nearly enough as I am my own worst critic. However, I've always tried to be a positive representation of every organization I've been a part of, and be helpful in any way possible as alluded to previously. I do want to share this story though. At a Blackburn networking function



Advisory Board Profile

McIntosh (continued)


some years ago at Vulcan Park, I asked the late [Advisory Board member] Mr. Redding Pitt what I should do to get involved in politics. He gave some of the best advice ever. He basically made three points: 1) Make some money; you don't want your mortgage payment to be dependent on the next election, 2) Start local; don't start out too broad when nobody knows you, and 3) When you've done local long enough, realize you love it, and you're willing to risk it all, then go for a larger office. "Risk it all" resonated with me, given all of the scrutiny involved with public office at the highest levels. I suppose I'm still trying to figure out step 1.

What role do you see the Blackburn Institute playing in the State of Alabama?

The Blackburn Institute is already playing a vital role in the State of Alabama and our nation with respect to public policy, education, and community activism. Further, numerous fellows have been on staff for state, local government, and federal government. If there's going to be a positive change in the State of Alabama, the road will have to go through the Blackburn Institute. We are the best Alabama has to offer. Statewide, nationwide, worldwide, we are the leaders of tomorrow, the gateway to the future. Take the youngest Blackburn Student Fellow right now. In his/her lifetime, I believe unequivocally that this individual will see the following from the Institute: a multitude of state legislative officials and board appointees, at least ten members of the U.S. House of Representatives, at least four U.S. Senators, at least two Governors, at least one Supreme Court Justice, and at least one President of the United States. This is likely a conservative estimate. Please check this scoreboard in the not so distant future. Remember that you heard it here first. 🐼

New Website Coming Soon

[THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA](#) ▶ [STUDENT AFFAIRS](#) ▶ [BLACKBURN INSTITUTE](#)☰ DIRECTORY ⓘ 🔍



Blackburn Institute

[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [PEOPLE](#) [STUDENT CURRICULUM & PROGRAMS](#) [NEWS & EVENTS](#) [INVOLVEMENT](#) [GIVING](#)

Student Curriculum & Programs

[D. RAY PATE NEW STUDENT RETREAT](#)

[DANIEL COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM](#)

[ANNUAL NETWORKING DINNER](#)


[ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM](#)

[PROTECTIVE LIFE GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE](#)

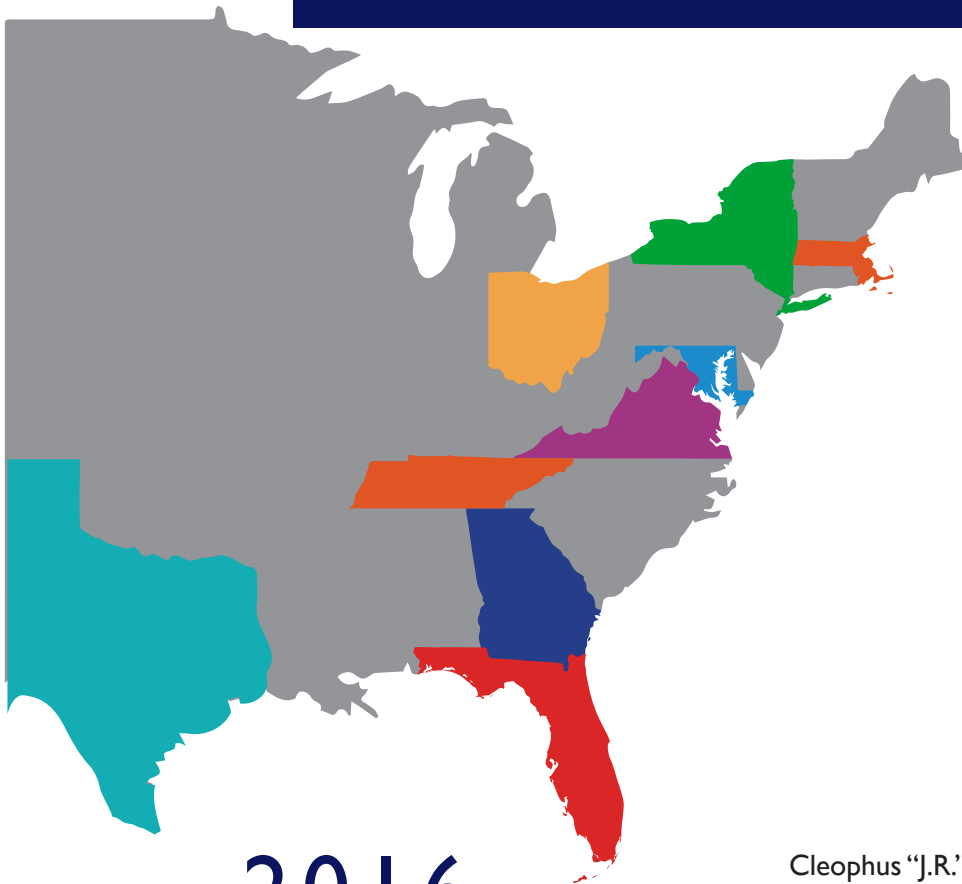
[HOME](#) / [STUDENT CURRICULUM & PROGRAMS](#) / [BURT JONES TRAVEL EXPERIENCE](#)

BURT JONES TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

The Burt Jones Travel Experience is a cornerstone of the leadership development curriculum for the Blackburn Institute at The University of Alabama. Named for the director of Palmer Hall during James Hood's time as one of the first African American students on campus and in the residence hall, these



Advisory Board



Regional Representation

Birmingham	21
Tuscaloosa	8
Montgomery	8
Huntsville	6
Gulf Coast	2
NE Corridor	1
Blackbelt	2
Shoals Region	1

2016 Membership

J. Norman Baldwin
Jenna Bedsole #
Lynne Berry
Gloria Blackburn
Michael Briddell
Katie Boyd Britt #
Kyle Buchanan #
Julian D. Butler
Mary Margaret Carroll
Cheree Causey
Prince Cleveland #

Sue Bell Cobb
Ray Cole
Mark Cooper
John Covington
Kathleen Cramer
Bradley Davidson #
Milton Davis
David Donaldson
Corey Ealons #
J. David Ellwanger
Wendy Evesque

Cleophus "J.R." Gaines
Fournier "Boots" Gale
Robert Harris III #
Mike House ^
Sandra Hullett
G. Douglas Jones
Peter Loftis Lowe Sr.
Gordon Martin ^
Mark Martin #
F. David Mathews
Marion McIntosh ^ #
Ray Miller
Leroy Nix #
Marjorie Kay Nix
Jon Noland
William O'Connor
Larry O'Neal
Carol Patterson
Tom Patterson
Andres Peña #
Alejandro Perez

Holly Piper ^
Redding Pitt *
Eric Pruitt #
Joe H. Ritch
Michelle Roth
John D. Saxon
Bobbie Siegal
Joan R. Smith #
Lynwood Smith
Victoria Starks #
Donald Stewart
Louise Thibodaux
Tracy Thompson
Kevin Turner
Robert Turner #
R. B. Walker #
Judson Wells

* Deceased
^ Board Officers
Blackburn Fellow

Elected in April 2016 to terms beginning January 1, 2017:

Marsha Folsom
Cornelia Heflin

Rosalind Moore
Taylor Nichols #

Christian Smith #
William Sorrell #

Joshua White #

Looking Ahead to 2016-2017

A Bright Future for Blackburn | R. Mac Griswold, Ph.D.

The Blackburn community can look forward to some exciting opportunities in the 2016-17 academic year. Programs launched as pilots in 2015-16 will be fine-tuned and expanded, new student programs will be developed, and visibility of the institute's work will be increased.

A first area of growth will answer the call to provide greater interaction with leaders from a variety of sectors, a new series of public lectures will be launched in September and continue throughout the year. "Perspectives on Leadership" will be a monthly series designed to expose students to different styles of leadership.

This series, open to all students at The University of Alabama, will promote greater visibility of the Blackburn Institute on campus, provide a venue to share our work and values with a wider audience. Additionally, the series is an opportunity to collaborate not only with partners in student affairs, but also with academic disciplines.

A second area of growth for the institute's programming in the coming year will be with activities for graduating students. Programming in this area will enhance the senior year experience through activities intended to:

1) strengthen relationships

between graduating students and the Fellows Involvement Network;

2) allow graduating students to showcase their skills to Advisory Board members and

Fellows; and

3) integrate a public declaration of commitment

to the values of the institute into the student-to-Fellow transition.

The Fellows Involvement Network (FIN) has already established the foundation for a new Soft Landings Program, designed to facilitate the integration of Fellows into new communities after they graduate. After an initial call for Fellows' involvement in summer 2016, over 25 individuals have offered to assist recent graduates. Starting in spring 2017, graduating students will receive earlier communication about the FIN and be asked to provide information about their post-graduation plans in an effort to connect them with Fellows.

Additionally, the new Living the Mission Reception planned for April 2017 will allow graduating students to showcase their work in support of the mission values of the institute. For some, this will be

through deeper involvement in the institute's programming, while for others it will be through time and energy dedicated to civic

“A public declaration of commitment to the values of the institute...”

projects, community-based research, policy development, organizational leadership, or other avenues of interest and impact.

Finally, consistent with leadership development models such as the Civic-Minded Graduate, graduating students will be invited to make a public declaration of their commitment to the values of the institute as part of their transition from a Blackburn Student to a Blackburn Fellow. Throughout fall 2016, students will be asked for input into the design of this declaration, both in terms of content and ceremony.

Students, Fellows, and Advisory Board members are all parts of the efforts that help the Blackburn Institute to evolve and grow. Stay informed, contribute within your means, and attend and participate in institute events. As we draw closer to our 25th anniversary as a community, each of these components will be important to our continued success and contributions to improving Alabama and the nation! 🌟





“Our active involvement in the Blackburn Institute allows us to participate with outstanding students who continue to inspire us to try to improve Alabama each and every day. Blackburn Institute is unique in its ability to equip young people with the essential skills and perspectives required to be thoughtful change agents in their communities.”

☞ Bobbie and Don Siegal, Blackburn Society Members ☞

2016-17 Dates

-
- Aug. 26-27 | Annual Symposium and Fall Advisory Board Meeting
 - Sept. 5 | First Sunday Sundaes
Monday due to Labor Day
 - Sept. 30 | Open House
 - Oct. 2 | First Sunday Sundaes
 - Oct. 17 | Daniel Community Scholars Competition and Reception
 - Oct. 26-29 | Burt Jones Travel Experience
Tennessee Valley
 - Nov. 6 | First Sunday Sundaes
 - Nov. 7 | New Student Nominations Open
 - Nov. 28 | End of Semester Social
 - Jan. 10 | Spring Kick-Off Meeting
 - Jan. 12 | New Student Nominations Close
 - Jan. 12-13 | Montgomery Travel Experience
 - Jan. 16 | New Student Interest Session
 - Jan. 17 | New Student Applications Open
 - Jan. 31 | New Student Applications Close
 - Feb. 2-13 | New Student Essay Review
 - Feb. 6 | First Sunday Sundaes
Monday due to Superbowl
 - Feb. 14-17 | New Student Group Interviews
 - Feb. 23-25 | New Student Individual Interviews
 - Feb. 27 | New Student Class Announcement
 - Mar. 5 | First Sunday Sundaes
 - Mar. 31 - Apr. 1 | D. Ray Pate New Student Retreat
 - Apr. 2 | First Sunday Sundaes
 - Apr. 11 | “Living the Mission” Reception
 - Apr. 17 | Spring Networking Dinner and Spring Advisory Board Meeting
 - Apr. 24 | End of Semester Social

Looking Forward; Giving Back

As we move into our 21st year, we hope that you will consider giving to the Blackburn Institute. Designed to instill the Institute's four overarching values, the Blackburn Student and Fellow experience is only achieved through generous donations from our supporters. Thanks to contributions, 20 classes of Blackburn Students have been able to participate in dynamic programming, to explore different communities within our state, and to develop meaningful relationships within our intergenerational network. Please consider giving so that future generations of Blackburn Students can be involved in this unique experience. Let us continue to work towards turning Dr. Blackburn's vision into a reality. Give today by visiting <http://blackburninstitute.ua.edu/institute.cfm>.



Stay Connected

.....



@BlackburnUA



@BlackburnInstitute



[www.facebook.com/
TheBlackburnInstitute](http://www.facebook.com/TheBlackburnInstitute)



blackburninstitute@sa.ua.edu

Blackburn Institute
The University of Alabama
Box 870167
2400 Ferguson Student Center
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

205.348.3277
205.348.5928

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA[®]

Division of
Student Affairs
Blackburn Institute