



Fireside

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF BROWNELL TALBOT SCHOOL





Notes from Worthington Hall

As the pages of this magazine demonstrate, Brownell Talbot is a special place for learning. In fact, many students spend their entire education journey, preschool through grade 12, here (check out our Class of 2017 lifers on page 3). This creates a unique sense of community and allows BT to provide an exceptional amount of support to our students and their families.

BT's mission is to prepare students for college and life. Our preschool through grade 12 structure presents a notable opportunity for us as educators to begin that preparation as early as three years old. But to do this, we need to have the right organizational framework in place that aligns our academics, athletics, activities, and whole-child care.

This past winter we began to implement enhancements to our administrative structure to allow faculty and staff to focus on their strengths while continuing to support each of our three school divisions. Our end goal is to increase collaborative decision making and communication across divisions, so that the curriculum taught is meaningfully interconnected and purposefully supports our mission.

The role of Head of School remains largely unchanged – I am responsible for all aspects of the school including academics, development, and business. This school year we introduce the Assistant Head of Academics position, which will support the continued collaboration among and across divisions, focusing on providing academic excellence in the preschool through grade 12 learning environment. I am excited to welcome Mr. Jason Smith to campus in this role. Learn more about Mr. Smith on page 5!

Mr. Smith and I will work closely with the academic leadership team, which is composed of the dean of students, the director of activities, director of technology, director of college counseling and guidance, learning and curriculum coordinator, and department chairs. Mr. Bill Harrell, who previously served as Head of Upper School, has been named BT's dean of students. In his new role, Mr. Harrell will work to ensure processes and procedures are in place to support the social and emotional development of students through the formalized guidance curriculum. It is also the responsibility of the dean of students to work with the college counseling and guidance department to make certain students are supported academically and social-emotionally and throughout college planning.

We are a community rooted in tradition and history, but we must also dynamically adapt to the changing needs of our students and families to remain the premier academic choice in Nebraska. These organizational changes support our ability to continually improve how we serve our students and their families and provide a clearly defined path toward meeting our mission goal with every Raider. I look forward to sharing more about these enhancements in the future.

Until then,

Kristi N. Gibbs, Ed.D.
Head of School

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Fireside is published for alumni, parents, and friends of Brownell Talbot School. Send story ideas and comments to Brownell Talbot School, attn: Renae Mackender, 400 N. Happy Hollow Blvd., Omaha, NE 68132; email renae.mackender@brownell.edu.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING — ON CAMPUS? —



1. Middle School and Upper School Robotics Teams Compete at Worlds

Three Middle School and three Upper School robotics teams competed at the VEX Robotics World Championship in Louisville, Kentucky, April 19-22. Upper School team 1028A had the best finish, placing 30th out of 94 teams in the Research Division.

2. Friendly Falls Opens for Business

Second grade students learned how businesses bolster a community and then applied those skills to Friendly Falls, a town they created and supported through their business ideas. The town featured restaurants, a grocery store, farm, football stadium, jail, and hospital. Pictured here is Grubby Guys Trash Removal Service by Sonu Saxena, '27.

3. Engineering Students Give Life to a Classic

Engineering 1 students disassembled a Model T-10 1/2 Scale, repaired it, and reassembled it as part of the spring semester's instruction. The car had previously been in storage for 30 years.

4. Middle School Athletes Dominate Basketball League

The boys sixth, seventh, and eighth grade teams and the girls eighth grade team were named Parochial Athletic League (PAL) basketball division champions for the 2016-2017 school year.

5. BT Lifers

Nineteen Class of 2017 "lifers," students who began their education at BT in either preschool, junior kindergarten, kindergarten, or first grade, were recognized during Commencement on Saturday, May 27, 2017.

6. Lower School Celebrates Field Day

Lower School students celebrated the arrival of summer with BT's annual Field Day! Students tested their skill and agility through obstacle courses and challenges. Middle School students assisted faculty in refereeing and helping the younger students.



6



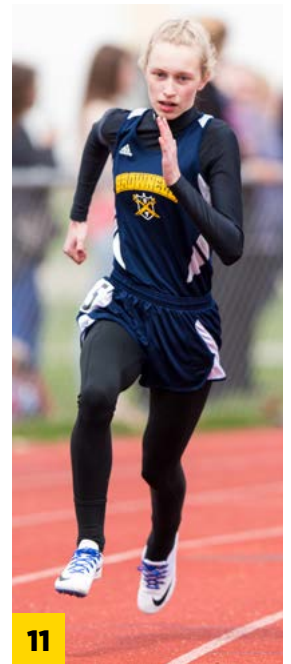
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8



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11



10

7. Wax Museum Brings History to Life

In March the fourth grade class hosted the annual Wax Museum. Students chose historical figures to research and impersonate. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from Leonardo da Vinci, John Lennon, Harper Lee, Rosa Parks, Annie Oakley, and more!

8. Le Marché Français Serves Food to Francophones

The Lower School Gymnasium transformed into a French market in May where fifth grade French students sold bonbons, pastries, cheeses, fruit, and sparkling juices to third and fourth grade French students. Students practiced ordering and selling in French to sharpen their conversation skills.

9. Orchestra Earns Top Spot in UNO String Olympics

The Upper School orchestra placed first overall in the small school division at University of Nebraska Omaha's String Olympics competition in March. The school placed fourth overall, and nine students earned Superior ratings for their solo performances.

10. Eighth Graders Commemorate Middle School Years

BT's 33 eighth graders were recognized during May's Middle School Celebration for their achievement of advancing to Upper School. The students shared a video they conceptualized, produced, and edited to honor their Middle School years.

11. Girls Track Breaks Records, Goes to State

Two school records in girls track were broken this school year. The 1600-meter relay team ran a time of 4:19.5, which broke the previous record from 2005 of 4:20.7. The 4x800 relay team ran a time of 11:08.4. This time eclipsed the previous record of 11:09.7, which was set in 2010. The team had three runners qualify for State, and Eliza Rice, '19, placed fifth in the 400-meter race with a time of 59.93.

Introducing: Assistant Head of Academics Jason Smith!

Brownell Talbot's New Assistant Head of Academics Jason Smith is trading one hot climate for another and gaining a whole lot of humidity as he and his family move to Omaha from Dubai, UAE, this summer. While the humidity may not be high on his list of reasons to be excited for life in Omaha, Smith has plenty of enthusiasm and vision for the school year ahead. To help the BT community get to know Smith a little better, we assigned him the following questions as homework:

What initially interested you about the Assistant Head of Academics position?

I was looking for a position similar to the one I am currently serving in and wanted to settle in the Midwest. Nothing seemed to be the right fit until this position at BT came along. Neither Omaha nor BT were on my radar, but, as I researched, my excitement grew! This position allows me to help lead teaching and learning and also stay connected to the classroom, which is very important to me.

Why do you feel you're a good fit for the job?

My experience as a principal at the lower and middle school levels has definitely prepared me for this leadership opportunity. During the last two years, I have led whole school initiatives related to curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional learning, and technology integration. I'm looking forward to working in a smaller school (My last school had 2,000 students!) where community and the "family feel" are valued and nurtured.

What was life in Dubai like?

Dubai is definitely a melting pot of people, cultures, and opportunities. It is a bustling city but also has a quieter side. Desert safaris, swimming in the Arabian Gulf, and taking in the breathtaking views from the top of the Burj al Arab were some of the great opportunities we took advantage of in Dubai. My family most appreciated the diversity and opportunity to engage with other cultures. We will miss the amazing friends we made and the delicious food, but we're excited to explore Omaha and find new restaurant favorites!

What are you most excited to rediscover in the states?

When we left the United States, my kids were two and three years old. Each summer, we would return for about five weeks. My kids think the United States is only about barbecues, the Fourth of July, and fireworks. I'm excited for them to experience it, not as pseudo-tourists, but as residents and citizens. When you live life as an expat, there are always people coming and going, lots of change. I'm excited for them to establish roots in a community and have a sense of belonging.

What about BT excites you?

BT is a family with strong roots and traditions. When I visited campus, I knew BT was the place I wanted to be and a community I wanted my family to be a part of. There's a feeling you get when you know something is right. Throughout my campus visit, and since then, I've had that feeling.



Mr. Smith's Favorites

FOOD

Mexican

TV SHOW

Survivor

MOVIE

The Blind Side

MUSIC

The Temptations - I grew up listening to these guys!

HOBBY

Racquetball - I haven't played in a while though!

QUIZ BOWL

Builds Character and Winning Record

Ostriches typically hang in the immediate neighborhood of zebras. Ostriches have poor senses of hearing and smell while the zebras are well developed. But ostriches have well developed vision, which zebras don't have. This illustrates what form of symbiosis?

While questions like this are befuddling to some, they are standard fare for Brownell Talbot's Quiz Bowl competitors. Quiz Bowl is a game in which two teams compete to answer questions from all areas of knowledge including history, literature, science, fine arts, current events, and sports. BT has had some version of a Quiz Bowl team off and on since the mid-90s, but students' interest in the program has skyrocketed in the past two years, leading to growth and improved competition at BT.

Having previously only competed at the Middle School level, this year BT introduced an Upper School team. Current Upper School students learned to love the competition, having competed and won

more than two thirds of the meets they participated in while in Middle School. The Upper School team is coached by retired French teacher Carolyn Conrath. In their first year of competition, the team had five top three finishes in nine competitions.

Not to be outdone, the Middle School Quiz Bowl team coached by sixth/seventh grade teacher Betsy Peterson placed first four times and earned a spot on the national stage at the National Academic Championship held in Washington, DC. After three days of intense competition, they walked away with a top four finish out of 16 teams.

There is a lot of strategy involved in creating a winning Quiz Bowl team. Individuals are assigned specialties and become subject matter experts. Teams practice how to respond to questions by giving as little information as possible to minimize errors. Diet also plays an important role in Quiz Bowl; students are encouraged to pack protein heavy lunches and stay hydrated to support brain function.

But it's not all about winning. In fact,

both BT coaches agree that participating in Quiz Bowl is primarily about being a great teammate and a gracious competitor. For newcomers, the fast-paced nature of the game can be intimidating. It takes the support of fellow students to encourage them to feel confident enough to buzz in. Students discuss and practice winning and losing with poise and hold each other accountable for their behavior.

As Peterson said, "I'm so proud to be a part of Quiz Bowl and to work with these students. It's amazing to be a part of a winning Quiz Bowl team, but I am also just as pleased when they lose and instead of being disappointed, they are excited to have improved and performed well. It shows the strength of their character."

Quiz Bowl season runs from September to April. Volunteers are needed to serve as question readers and score keepers at BT-hosted competitions. Contact Betsy Peterson at betsy.peterson@brownell.edu to participate. Subscribe to BT's Google calendar on brownell.edu for competition dates.



2016-2017 Middle School Quiz Bowl team



2016-2017 Upper School Quiz Bowl team

New Art Curriculum

Offers Tools to Make Every Student a Skilled Artist



A ceramic vase
created by
Grant Runnels, '17

When art teacher Cody Wheelock came to Brownell Talbot two years ago, he did so with a vision for an art program in which students produce artwork that is designed well, executed with a level of skill, and conceptually sound. He quickly set about restructuring the Middle and Upper School art program so that the curriculum in seventh grade, and every grade leading up to senior year, positioned students to possess these skills as they complete their AP art portfolios. To reach this end goal, Wheelock focuses on helping students learn fundamental basics starting in Middle School.

“You can’t build a house with just a hammer,” said Wheelock. “It’s equally unfair to ask a student to execute a big conceptual art project without first learning basic art skills. So we focus on filling students’ toolboxes so they become good in different mediums.” Wheelock feels students have embraced the skills-based nature of the classes, which he credits to the general nature of BT students who tend to thrive when given the “why” behind a task.

By freshman year, students have had two years of instruction from Wheelock and have worked in multiple mediums. Those



Art teacher Cody Wheelock with Tess Foxhall, '18.

interested in continuing to pursue art have the opportunity to take a class that solely focuses on drawing, painting, pottery, or sculpture, with the purpose of helping the student improve on executing a specific medium well.

Because Upper School art classes are so small, Wheelock is afforded multiple opportunities to offer individualized instruction and gives assignments that fit each person's ability level. This is incredibly beneficial to the development of each artist because, as Wheelock points out, becoming proficient in art is mostly about investing time and effort. The students who progress the most are those that do not give up easily, continue to practice the craft, and push through adversity.

Students who want to take AP Portfolio are required to complete two classes in the four mediums offered in order to help them identify what their strength is. AP Portfolio is structurally different than other AP courses. The purpose of AP Portfolio is for the students to apply what they have learned in a new way. The students determine what they will work to accomplish in the course and Wheelock supports them as a facilitator and coach to meeting an end goal.

Across all levels of the art program, a key component to developing as an artist is to learn how to give and receive critical feedback. Students participate in structured peer-to-peer critiques while a piece is being created and once it is completed. Wheelock, an artist who specializes in traditional drawing and oil painting methods, brings in his work to have students critique it, which

helps reinforce the concept that critique is an important part of the creative process for practitioners at any level.

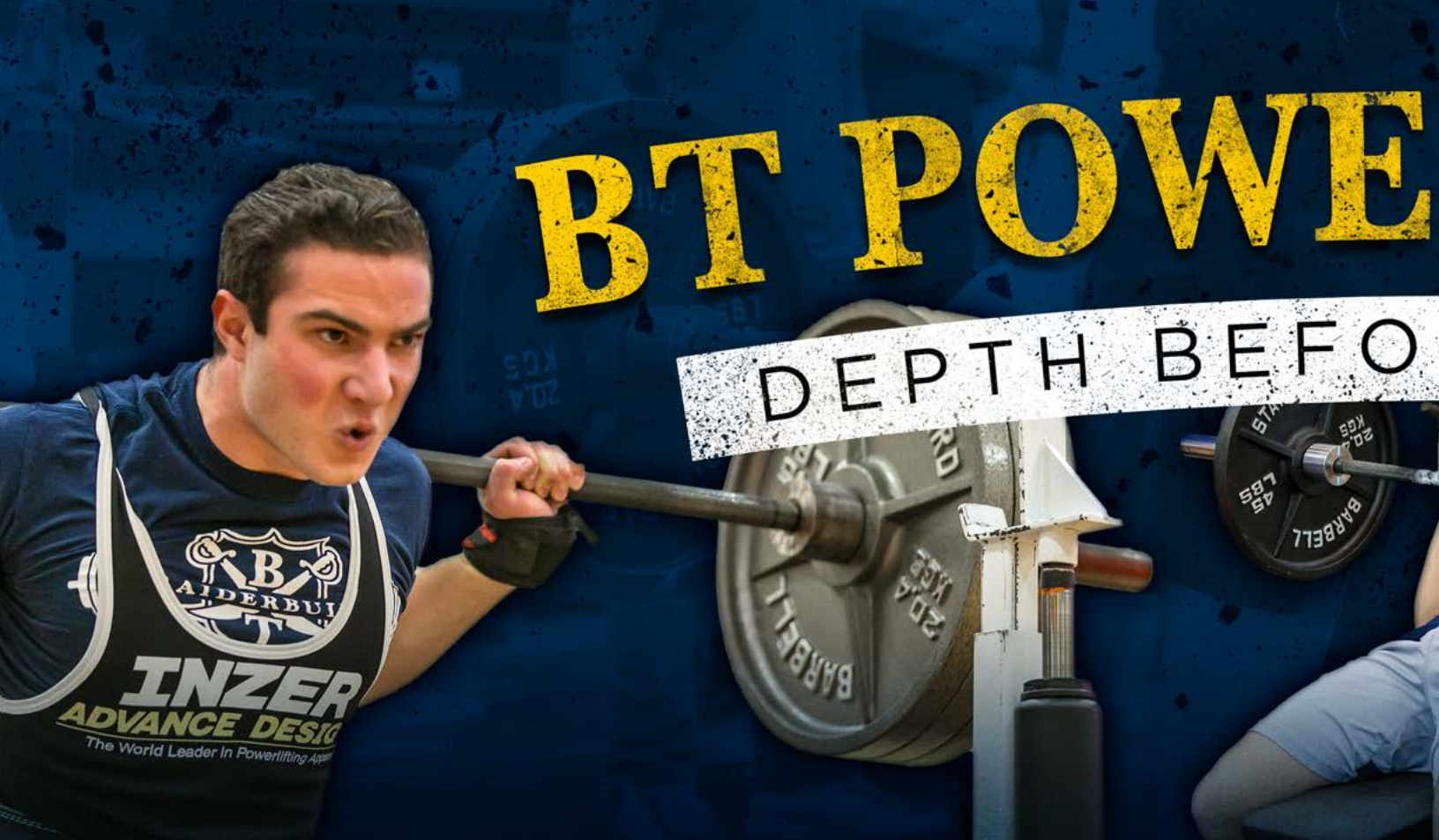
Although art is not a required course, a third of the seniors during the 2016-2017 school year took at least one art course, sometimes more, and at least two of the seniors who took AP Portfolio are continuing their art studies at college in the fall.

- Frank Fu, '17, focused on 3D design during AP Portfolio, creating a hypothetical city. Fu is attending Illinois Institute of Technology in the fall where he'll study architecture.
- Grant Runnels, '17, whose AP Portfolio also focused on 3D design, is a skilled ceramist and will continue his study of the art at Colorado State University.

Wheelock is encouraged by the increasing interest in art studies and believes in part it is the result of students having a better understanding of the connected curriculum from seventh through twelfth grades.

"I'm really excited about where the program is going," Wheelock said. "I can see the level of work the seventh grade is producing and their enthusiasm for it. I expect the number of Upper School students taking art classes to grow as they have the opportunity to continue to build on what they've already learned."

Visit brownell.edu/live-art to see video of Wheelock creating a live art piece at this year's gala!



Rigorous academic curriculum. Accomplished robotics teams. State title-winning powerlifters.

To the outsider, one of these things might not scream “Brownell Talbot!” like the others, but the BT community, and those familiar with high school powerlifting in the Omaha metro area, are not surprised to see powerlifting listed among the school’s achievements. BT has not been competing in the sport for very long – the school first participated in, and won, the Class C state meet in the spring of 2015. But Brownell Talbot has quickly become a known entity, with the boys placing first twice and second once in the last three State meets, and the girls placing first in the two State meets in which they have competed.

Powerlifting at BT came to be through the request of students who wanted to compete in the State meet in 2015. Previously, weightlifting at Brownell Talbot had centered on strength and conditioning in support of other sports. As coach Mike Mancuso points out, powerlifting also benefits you in other sports, but there is clear separation between the two activities.

“Powerlifting and strength and conditioning are completely different but mutually beneficial. Strength and conditioning is basically general physical preparedness for another sport. In powerlifting, you are focused on maximum strength for one rep. The movement patterns for the three lifts – squat, deadlift, and bench press – are the same, but in powerlifting those movements are competitive.”

In addition to dominating at Class C competitions, Brownell Talbot’s powerlifting program has earned the respect of larger programs like Creighton Prep and Central High School. Because of the numbers BT lifters put up early on, both schools invited BT to compete at their meets this past spring. Despite being at a competitive disadvantage (Class A schools compete equipped, BT competes raw), BT performed very well with several students placing and Alice Silberling, ’19, breaking the Class A girls squat record.

Equipped vs. Raw

In the sport of powerlifting, lifts are performed equipped or raw. Equipped refers to a supportive bench shirt or squat/deadlift suit. Raw means lifters are competing with no additional equipment. It’s estimated that equipped lifting allows the athlete to lift approximately 115 percent of their maximum raw weight.

Mancuso cites several reasons why BT’s powerlifters have performed so well in such a short period of time, including students’ natural abilities, great attitudes, attention to detail, and intense work ethic. The BT powerlifters’ motto is “depth before dishonor,” which touches on the attention to form and technical

RLIFTING

RE DISHONOR



preparedness that they focus on. While lifters from other schools attempt lifts just to put up big numbers and sometimes fail because of poor form, Mancuso stresses the importance of the little details like hand placement, breathing, and bracing that have helped BT excel in meets.

Powerlifting is not a Nebraska School Activities Association sanctioned sport, so its season spans mid-winter to early spring in order to work around basketball, wrestling, swimming, and track. Students' commitment to powerlifting can be seen in the efforts to meet the required four practices a week; several of the powerlifters compete in other sports with conflicting practice and competition schedules, so students take it upon themselves to complete their workouts during free periods and lunch. Mancuso also works with lifters to create individualized training programs in order to properly prepare for meets and maximize benefits to other sports.

"Powerlifting is great for our athletes, but one of the things I love about the program is it's not just for the students who are also competing in another sport," said Activities Director Jeff Rohrig. "It empowers all

students to be healthy and to learn life skills related to fitness."

"It becomes a life habit – students leave BT and feel confident and comfortable using the equipment in their college campus fitness facilities. They might not be competing anymore, but the passion for lifting is still there," Mancuso reiterated.

As for BT's powerlifting program, it continues to grow and impress its peers across the state. Mancuso is working with Creighton Prep to organize an All-Class State championship powerlifting meet for the 2017-2018 school year. Powerlifters at the All-Class meet will compete raw to find out who can lift the most weight in his or her bodyweight category, with an end goal of identifying the best lifters in Nebraska. The meet will most likely be held at Creighton Prep in the early months of 2018.

Stay up to date with powerlifting and BT Athletics – visit brownell.edu/athletics.





MADELYN SHUMAKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

In February of 2016, Corrie and Jesse Shumaker contacted the Advancement Office with a meaningful idea: they wanted to start a scholarship to honor the short but full life of their late daughter, Madelyn “Maddie” Shumaker, but were unsure of how to begin.

In their first meeting with Executive Director of Advancement Shannon Gilroy, the couple began sharing their “whys?”. Not why they wanted to honor Maddie’s life, that reason was clear. Rather, why they wanted to honor Maddie’s life at Brownell Talbot. And why it was so important to them to make a long-term commitment to the school, her classmates, and the BT community.

“Brownell Talbot was a huge part of Maddie’s life since the age of three, and she treasured her times there with friends, teachers, and staff. We wanted to establish a memorial scholarship as a way for other children to have this same opportunity.” - Corrie and Jesse Shumaker

The Shumakers also had questions about the logistics of establishing an endowed scholarship. What kind of sacrifice would it take? For how long? And from how many?

Questions like the latter are common when donors are considering a significant philanthropic gift. Whether honoring a loved one, supporting a cause meaningful to you, or both, the process can seem daunting. However, the reality of making it happen is much simpler. It starts with setting a goal and then mapping out a giving plan. In the Shumakers’ case, their goal was to establish a named scholarship with the award given to a member of the class of 2025, the year Maddie would have graduated.

A fully endowed, named scholarship at Brownell Talbot requires an initial gift of \$25,000



with a commitment to grow the fund to \$100,000 or more. Due to the generosity of many and the couple’s employer matching gift program (Union Pacific offers a 2:1 match), the Shumakers were able to meet the initial gift threshold in early 2017.

As for why Jesse and Corrie wanted to honor Maddie’s life at BT – the school and the friendships she made here were especially important to her.

Maddie began at Brownell Talbot as a preschooler and spent her time on campus loving her school, classmates, and teachers. Maddie was on the Brownell Talbot swim team, played soccer, basketball, and tennis, and loved attending BT Upper School athletic events. Maddie was only seven years old when she was diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), a highly aggressive and difficult to treat brain tumor found at the base of the brain. She left this life at peace and with a love for BT at the age of eight.

If you would like to support the Madelyn Shumaker Memorial Scholarship and honor Maddie’s legacy with a charitable gift or if you are interested in learning more about starting a scholarship at BT, please contact Executive Director of Advancement Shannon Gilroy at 402.556.3774 or shannon.gilroy@brownell.edu.

PARTICIPATION ON THE

RISE AT BT!



“It’s not how much you give, it’s that you give.” This was the mantra for philanthropy implementation during the 2016-2017 school year after steady declines in participation in giving opportunities. We knew we needed to redirect the ship per se, so the Advancement team committed to three things and worked to apply them to every interaction we had:

1 Make the giving process inviting and welcoming to all.

2 Recognize gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

3 Express gratitude often and always.

After a year of selflessness and generosity from you, our beloved BT community, we’re pleased to report the following:

19
memorial gifts

\$68,581
earmarked for school activities, athletics, and the arts, as well as physical improvements to buildings and grounds.

28 students received
\$227,695
in named scholarships

85 students received
\$899,672
in tuition assistance

Gala raised **\$598,304**



The introduction of The BT Fund was well received by the BT community, resulting in:

223 couples or individuals increased the size of their gift



Average gift size: **\$656**

Faculty & Staff
Goal: \$20,000
100% participation

\$23,275
100% participation

Current Families
Goal: \$120,000
100% participation

\$107,077
59.35% participation

Board of Trustees
Goal: \$55,000
100% participation

\$69,375
100% participation

BT Fund Highlights

- First and fourth grade parents achieved 100% participation
- Faculty and Staff achieved 100% participation
- Board of Trustees achieved 100% participation
- BT received more than double the number of gifts received last year
- 63% of current parents supported The BT Fund

Alumni
Goal: \$20,000

\$14,995
4.53% participation

Friends
Goal: \$5,000

\$9,212
2% participation

Grandparents & Past Grandparents
Goal: \$5,000

\$15,080
32% participation

2017 Gala

An Evening in the Garden

Guests dined under the soft twinkle of lights strung throughout the tent.

An Evening in the Garden, Brownell Talbot School's annual gala, was held Friday, May 12, 2017, on Brownell Talbot's campus. The event's 410 guests participated in silent and live auctions to support the school's mission of preparing students for success in college and in life. More than \$598,000 was raised.

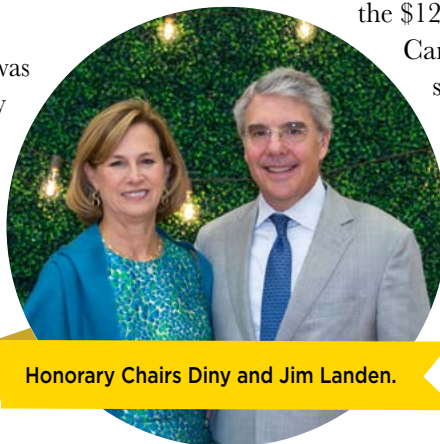
Upon arrival, guests were greeted by a string quartet of Upper School students. During the Silent Auction in the Scott Gymnasium, BT's award winning Raider Blues Jazz Combo performed. As guests entered the tent for dinner, Pirate Radio, BT's a cappella group, sang arrangements of pop hits including Stevie Wonder's "I Wish," and Joe Cocker's version of "With a Little Help from My Friends."

The evening's featured student speaker was Sean O'Connell, '17. A Malone Family Foundation scholarship recipient since the eighth grade, O'Connell spoke about the importance of giving back and shared a reflection about the virtues of servant leadership. O'Connell will attend Washington University in St. Louis in the fall.

One of the evening's highlights was contributed by Brownell Talbot's art

teacher Cody Wheelock, who specializes in oil paintings. Wheelock started working on a live event painting at 1:30 pm on the day of the event and continued painting through dinner, creating a one-of-a-kind keepsake of the evening that was then sold during the live auction.

Diny and Jim Landen were chosen as this year's Honorary Chairs in recognition for their many years of service and commitment to the school. The ties between the Landen family and Brownell Talbot School run deep, starting with Mary Fuller Shirley, '18, the matriarch of three generations of BT students. Diny and Jim chaired Brownell Talbot's steering committee for the \$12 million Building on the Tradition of Excellence Campaign and co-chaired gala in 1991. Jim served as a trustee for 14 years and chaired the finance committee. Diny served as a trustee for seven years and chaired the marketing and enrollment committee. Their children James Landen, Jr., '06, Wilson Landen, '08, and Charlie Landen, x'12, attended Brownell Talbot. Good recordkeeping allowed the host of the evening, Brownell Talbot Executive Director of Advancement Shannon Gilroy, to share Jim Landen's elementary school



Honorary Chairs Diny and Jim Landen.



Pirate Radio performs on stage before guests enjoyed dinner.



Student speaker Sean O'Connell, '17.



Gala Co-Chairs Rudy and Suzanne Kotula and Frank Kubat and Edwin Leslie (left to right).

report card notes from the 1960s, highlighting his “singing skills” and an assessment of his “ability to work and play well with others.”

Gala Co-Chairs were Suzanne and Rudy Kotula, parents of Anna, '19, and Frank Kubat and Edwin Leslie, parents of Matthew, '30.

Topiaries and bouquets of peonies, roses, and wildflowers in mercury vases and wooden boxes decorated tables lined with lavender colored linens. The tent was softly lit by the glow of edison light bulbs strung throughout. Guests dined on gazpacho and a spring panzanella salad followed by a duo of braised beef short rib and stuffed chicken breast, ending on a sweet note with a strawberry Champagne tart.



Art teacher Cody Wheelock with his one-of-a-kind live event painting.

**Thank you to our
Visionary, Hero, and
Champion level sponsors!**

— Visionaries —



**Suzanne and Rudy
Kotula**

— Heroes —

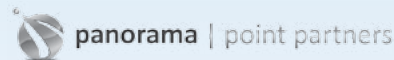
**The David Scott
Foundation**

— Champions —

Diny and Jim Landen



LESLIE HOSPITALITY
Frank Kubat and Edwin Leslie



**SAVE THE
DATE**

for next year's gala!

Friday, May 11, 2018



GALA 2017

1 Corey Burkley, '08, Will Sutton, '08, JD Haskell, '08, retired BT coach Dave Brown, and Jon White, '08.

2 Kacey Hahn Stauder, '06, and Natalie Zaysoff, '06.

3 Neely Kountze, '69, Mary Marshall Kerr, '67, and their spouses, Tom Kerr and Mary Kountze.

4 Nick Thielen, '01, and Jenny Smith Thielen, '01, along with Lesley Dahlk Turner, '02, and Ben Turner, '01.



HOUSE REUNION 2017

5 A great group of alumni from the Classes of 2012-2016 came back to campus on January 6 for the House Reunion and to cheer on the Raider basketball teams.

SENIOR PARENT LUNCH

6 Tom Skutt, '80, and son Connor, '17, at the annual Senior Parent Lunch.



CAMPUS VISIT

7 Scott Swanson, x'65, stopped by campus in May for a tour and shared stories of his time at Brownell Talbot.



SCIENCE FAIR

8 Helena Black, '16, Zach Ehresman, '12, Saidah Yapp Mayo, '08, and Katelyn Schindler Laflin, '11, served as judges and assistants at the Middle School Science Fair. BT robotics coach, Connor Rise, '11, was also there to assist with the robotics team's demonstration.

ALUMNI ON CAMPUS

GRADUATION

9 Jimmy Watson, '09, (kneeling front) and Chelsey Watson French, '06, (with camera) along with the rest of the family celebrate David Watson, '17.

10 New alum, Grant Runnels, '17, celebrates with his family, including brother Harrison Runnels, '16 (center).

11 Chris Mathews, '13, attended graduation along with parents, Dr. Abraham and Mrs. Grace Mathews, to celebrate sister Maya Mathews, '17.

12 Marilyn Gregory Johnson, '80, and husband Chris, celebrating daughter Kathryn, '17.

13 Yash Murthy, '09, and Anjali Murthy, '15, with brother Tej, '17, and parents Dr. Krishna Murthy and Mrs. Mena Shivnauth.

14 Sean Gardner, '17, with Tenley Propst, '15.

15 Saif Shah, '12, Sama Shah, '17, and their parents Dr. and Mrs. Mastan and Rafia Shah.

16 Adi Telikicherla, '16, with Brett Graves, '17, history teacher, Mr. Lauren Hiebner, and Audrey Graves, '18.

17 Brett Graves, '17, celebrates graduation with his family including mom Bethany Beavers Graves, '86, (fourth from right) and aunt, Belinda "Bindy" Beavers Bell, '87 (fourth from left).



CONGRATULATION

In five years

Happy, healthy, and on my way to med school with a degree in neuroscience and psychology.

- Taylor Stuke

Attending medical school at the University Nebraska Medical Center.

- Carter Calvert

Fulfilled in my career choice or grad school.

- Sean O'Connell

Somewhere abroad with a civil engineering internship.

- Lauren Thaden

S CLASS OF 2017!

I hope to be:

A college graduate,
working a job that I love.

- Elyse Davis

Someone that I'm proud of.

- Gabi Basile

In my freshman year
of medical school at
St. Louis University!

- Sama Shah

Serving this country in the Navy
or pursuing a medical career.

- Rachel Hall

Working at a studio making
games and drawing characters
that a future child of mine
would be super excited about.

- Jake Drew

In graduate school pursuing
an advanced degree.

- David Bredthauer

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Kelly Crowell, '96



I currently reside in Washington, DC and am the Executive Vice President and COO of a nonprofit called My Little Patient. We focus on international health relief and sustainability.

Which BT teacher had the biggest impact on you?

That's a difficult question. I had so many wonderful professors that had a tremendously positive impact on my life. However, Mr. Hufnagl, my English teacher, continues now even into my adulthood, to be a driving force in my personal and professional development.

Favorite spot on BT's campus?

The chapel has always been a special place for me. I'm repeatedly drawn to its simplistic beauty and have especially fond memories of Christmas Chapel.

Last book you read?

I spend most of my time reading information about health and social statistics regarding countries we are trying to assist. However, one of my favorite reads is, "Mountains Beyond Mountains," because it was paramount in my choosing to pursue studies while at Creighton University in medical anthropology.

What's on your bucket list?

To create a free health clinic on every continent where those in need have access to clean water, health care, and education. My goal is to provide the tools to create sustainability and empower everyday people to do extraordinary things.

What do you miss about Omaha?

I miss my friends, family, and the small-town essence. There is a friendliness and down-home nature to the people and the city. It truly is the "heartland."

What advice would you give to current BT students?

Fail. Failure means you're trying and constantly learning. Only through making mistakes do you come to realize what you're really made of, what you can do to improve. The more people that look at you like you're crazy when you tell them your dream, means you're on the right track to something greater than yourself.

Fondest memory of BT?

My BT family. Each year as I get older, I realize how blessed I am and how unique it is to have so many friends that are still such a significant part of my life.

How did BT help prepare you for what you are doing now?

While BT provided me with a well-rounded education, what I've most benefited from is learning that you may not always know the answer or how to do something, but you can use what you have learned to find the solution.

What's up next for you?

The debut of a new BT scholarship in memory of my best friend and BT classmate Jill Veylupek, this October. We are also taking medical teams to Romania, Peru, and Haiti over the next year.

SAVE THE DATE: MARC HUFNAGL IN CONCERT Benefit Concert for Brownell Talbot

Please join us Saturday, October 21 for a concert with former teacher Marc Hufnagl as he helps kick off the My Little Patient Scholarship for World Changers fundraising efforts.

This scholarship was started in honor of the late Jill Veylupek, '96. Veylupek was an advocate for education and making the world a better place. Help

BT celebrate her memory and enjoy an evening of music from Hufnagl, who was one of Jill's favorite teachers. All money raised will go to a scholarship for a BT student who shows great promise in making the world a better place and also demonstrates financial need.

Hufnagl taught English and dance at Brownell Talbot from 1993-2000 and now

lives in Switzerland. For more information about Hufnagl, visit his Facebook page @ Marc Hufnagl/Words and Music.

Marc Hufnagl in Concert
Saturday, October 21, 2017
Swanson Auditorium

More information about the event coming soon!

Support this scholarship at brownell.edu/jill-veylupek

ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

IN MEMORIAM

Naomi Bucholz Farquhar, '41
D. February 26, 2017

Marjorie Gray Lane, '41
D. September 7, 2016

Sally Dabney Parker, '55
D. October 13, 2014

Rosemary Cooper-Rozman, '56
D. December 2, 2016

Mary Klumpp Gordon, '65
D. September 12, 2016

Friends:

Anil K. Agarwal
D. May 2, 2017

Survived by son Arun Agarwal, '94; daughters
Dolly Agarwal Burt, '90; and Neena Will, '95

Charles "Hap" Stein
D. June 26, 2016

Survived by wife Susan Stein, former BT faculty member;
son Edward Stein, '82; and daughter Margaret Stein, '84

Daniel Trautman
D. December 5, 2016

Survived by son Jeff Trautman, '88

Michael J. Sullivan, Faculty Member 2006-2010
D. December 18, 2016

Lawrence "Larry" James, MD, Board of Trustees 1987-1988 D. January 17, 2017

Survived by wife, Jeannette; son Barrett "Barry"
James, '77; daughter Allison James, '78; and son
Lawrence "Chip" James, '88, current member of
the Brownell Talbot board of trustees.

The James family provided instrumental funding
for the 1984 renovation of the Lower School
library. The Laura Jeannette James Lower School
Library is named in honor of their late daughter,
Laura, who frequently came with her mother to
read books to the children in the library.

In addition their support also funded a new
Middle and Upper School library named the
Lawrence and Jeannette James Middle and
Upper School Library.

NEWS

Dian Jones Moore Warren, '56, was the honoree at the 2017 Douglas County Historical Society's Women Defining History event. She was recognized for her impact and philanthropic work in the Douglas County community.

Kacey Hahn Stauder, '06, and husband Drew welcomed Logan Kathleen Stauder August 18, 2016.

Saidah Yapp Mayo, '08, graduated from Creighton Dental School in May 2017 and is working in Omaha.

Meaghan Bartels, '09, graduated from Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine and is working in Dallas.

Grace Bydalek, '14, performed in the role of Paulina in the University of Michigan's production of "The Winter's Tale," a Shakespearean tragicomedy.

Candy Qu, '14, won best model of the year at a university fashion show in February. Qu was studying in Ireland at the Dublin Management Internship Program when she received this award. This was her first experience in stage modeling.

Wellesley Michael, '14, Miss Omaha, was named first runner up at the Miss Nebraska competition in June. She also won the Overall Interview Award (tie) and received a total of \$3,250 in scholarships.

Julian Davis, '14, was named to the University of Nebraska Lincoln's Franco's List. Franco's List is named after Juan Franco, the university's vice chancellor for student affairs, and recognizes students at Nebraska who demonstrate characteristics essential to being a person of integrity.

Robert Goetschkes, '15, finished his sophomore year at the United States Air Force Academy and is overseas for a summer internship.

Katie Wiegand, '15, played the role of Sandman in the opera production of "Hansel and Gretel" at Simpson College.

Lance Culjat, '16, **Anjali Murthy**, '15, and **Jainaha Srikumar**, '15, met up with the Class of 2017 on their senior class trip in Chicago.

Josh Bartz, '16, **Harrison Runnels**, '16, **Krishn Rapoor**, '16, **Cheyenne Hanson**, '16, **Rory McCarthy**, '16, **Andrew Klinger**, '16, **Reid Rise**, '16, and **Andrew Quirk**, '05, volunteered at the Class C State championship powerlifting meet hosted by Brownell Talbot.

Attention: Parents of Alumni

Are you still receiving this magazine and other BT mail addressed to your children? Please help us update our records by contacting Renae Mackender at renae.mackender@brownell.edu or 402.556.3772 ext 1015 with their contact information. Thank you!

A Page in Time

Brownell Talbot's oldest living alum, Sarah "Sally" Johnston Marshall, '34, celebrated her 101st birthday on March 29. Head of School Dr. Kristi Gibbs was able to spend time with Sally and reflect on her time at Brownell Hall as well as share birthday cards made for her by first grade students.



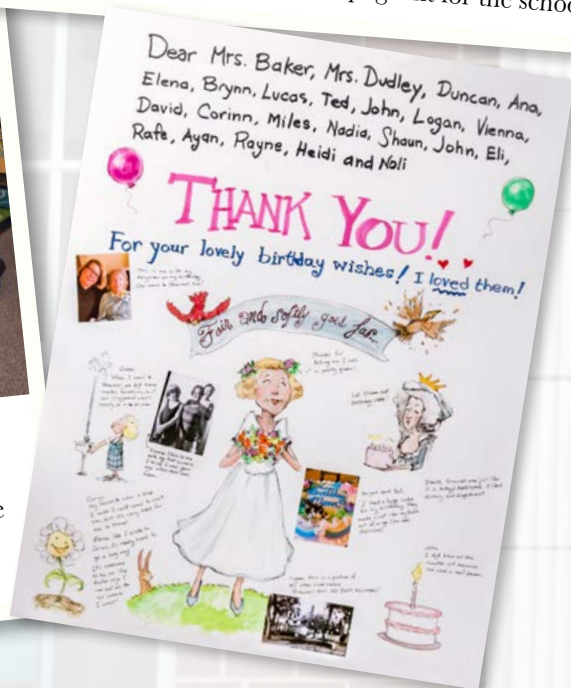
Dr. Kristi Gibbs visiting with Sally on her birthday.



Sally is in the middle row, third from the right. Sally was class president and society editor of the yearbook, *The Triangle*. Her yearbook quote was "Fair and softly goes far." She was also crowned Queen at the Garden Masque, an annual pageant for the school.



Tom Kerr (back row), husband of Sally's daughter Mary Marshall Kerr, '67, brought a special card he and Sally made to thank the first grade class. Sally answered the questions the students asked such as, what were her favorite subjects? The answer: English and history!



If you are interested in helping the alumni office identify and organize photographs, please contact Renae Mackender at renae.mackender@brownell.edu or 402.556.3772 ext 1015.

FROM THE ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE

“By the authority granted to me as Head of School, by the Board of Trustees, I hereby declare the members of the Class of 2017 graduates of Brownell Talbot School.”

- Kristi N. Gibbs, Ed.D., Head of School, May 27, 2017.



While the words may be few and simple, their impact on the 41 members of the Class of 2017 is life changing. These young women and men are heading off in new directions with confidence and excitement, knowing they always have a home in the Brownell Talbot School community. They now share a unique connection with BT alumni of all ages, across the world.

As we look to a new school year, I encourage you to take an active role in the future of the school. It is the responsibility of all members of our beloved community to not only maintain, but enhance the BT experience for future generations.

I invite all alumni to remember their days at Brownell Talbot and reconnect with friends and former teachers. Stop by for a tour of the campus, cheer on your favorite sports team, witness the talents of our students on stage and in the art studio, and stay connected to BT. Your first opportunity is right around the corner – join us on September 22 for Homecoming!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renae Mackender". The script is cursive and elegant.

Renae Mackender
Director of Constituent Relations

HOMECOMING 2017

Friday, September 22, 2017

5:30 pm: Alumni Tailgate

Join us for a hosted tailgate to celebrate with fellow alum.

6:00 pm: BT vs. Palmyra Football Game

Free admission to the game for all alumni and family.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook at Brownell Talbot School Alumni for more information coming soon!



Brownell Talbot School
400 N. Happy Hollow Blvd.
Omaha, NE 68132

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 8

College Send Off

SEPTEMBER 22

Homecoming Tailgate

OCTOBER 21

Marc Hufnagl in Concert



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