



Fireside

A magazine for alumni and friends of Brownell Talbot College Preparatory School



Visual Storytelling with **MAURO FIORE**

**Tuition Reset:
A Bold Path Forward**

more on page 5

Defining “Best”

more on page 9

40 Years of Gala

more on page 11



Any time a student enrolls at Brownell Talbot, whether it was this year or 50 years ago, our hope is always that each family considers themselves Raiders for Life. Every member of the BT community offers unique perspectives and contributions that make for a stronger learning environment, one that better reflects a global community.

Recently, the school made a big decision, resetting Upper School tuition and inviting even more families to become Raiders for Life and experience the benefits of a Brownell Talbot education. We hope to have another record-setting enrollment year, and the tuition reset positions the school for success. Read more about the tuition reset on page 5.

There's a lot the BT community can be proud of - our students are being recognized for their work at the local, state, and national level for their efforts to positively impact their world. Some of these stories are highlighted on pages 3-4. Our school took home top honors in this year's Best of Omaha

and Niche.com's annual awards, which we know is really a testament to the talent and commitment of our faculty and staff (page 9). Momentum for Brownell Talbot's capital campaign is building and the school is preparing for a campaign that will address BT's capital and endowment priorities (page 12).

I hope this issue of *Fireside* inspires you to share some of the good news in its pages with family or friends who may not be as familiar with Brownell Talbot. Now is the time to introduce the school and our mission to others looking to give their children the world through a rigorous, globally minded education. Thank you for being the school's best ambassadors as we build our next class of Raiders for Life!

Sincerely,

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Notes from Worthington Hall
- 2 Table of Contents
- 3 What's Happening on Campus?
- 5 Tuition Reset: A Bold Path Forward
- 6 Beyond the Classroom. Beyond Expectations.
- 7 Visual Storytelling with Mauro Fiore
- 9 Defining "Best"
- 10 BT Fund
- 11 40 Years of Gala
- 12 Capital Campaign Update
- 13 Alumni Spotlight: Ruben Zendejas, '12
- 14 BT's Legacy Students
- 15 Alumni on Campus
- 17 Alumni News and Notes

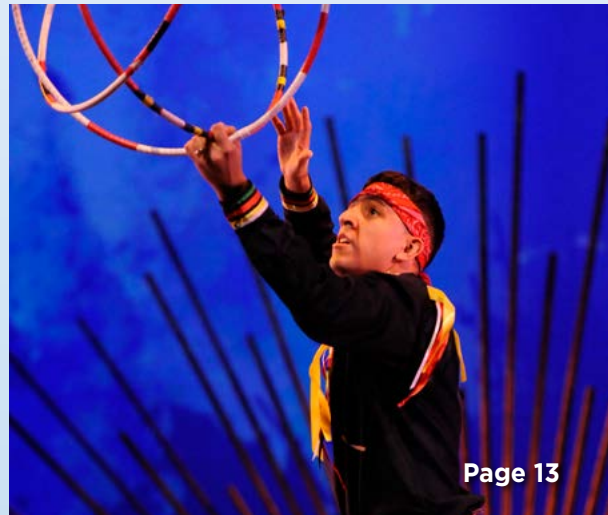
Fireside is published for alumni, parents, and friends of Brownell Talbot College Preparatory School. Send story ideas and comments to Brownell Talbot, attn: Kenley Sturdivant-Wilson, 400 N. Happy Hollow Blvd., Omaha, NE 68132; email renae.mackender@brownell.edu.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING — ON CAMPUS? —



1. BT Wins First Place in State Math Competition

In October, BT won first place in University of Nebraska Omaha's Math Day for the 14th time in a row. As a second part of the event, the top 50 students took a second round justification test in November, during which BT two students placed in the top 10. Lang Guan, '22, earned first place overall, and Sophie Reimer, '23, earned seventh.

2. Congressman Bacon Visits Robotics Lab

Over the summer, BT students spent time lobbying for more federal funding for STEM education in schools. In recognition of their efforts, Congressman Don Bacon visited BT's robotics lab to learn more about the students and STEM education programs at BT.

3. Art Students Adding Cheer and Inspiration to Group Home in Mexico

BT's National Art Honor Society and Junior Art Honor Society are working to create art that reflects the inspiring mission of Casa Hogar, a home and school for vulnerable children in Cabo San Lucas. The students are designing a digital model of the mural on iPads before painting an 8'x10' section on primed canvas that will be sent to Mexico.

4. Omaha Film Festival Hosts 48-Hour Film Challenge at BT

In September several BT students received real-world, hands-on experience assisting the Omaha Film Festival in hosting its annual 48-Hour Film Challenge. Amateur and seasoned filmmakers from across the midwest had 48 hours to create films that aligned with contest criteria including a specific genre, prop,



and line of dialogue. At the event, the films were screened and winners determined. BT students helped run production of the event, manning lights and projection, as well as assisting with front-of-house duties.

5. Trunk or Treat Returns!

Spooky fun was had by all as BT's Trunk or Treat event returned! After taking a break last year, this outdoor event returned with a record number of cars and attendees participating. The evening ended with a showing of *Coco* on BT's outdoor movie screen.

6. Seventh and Eighth Grade Volleyball Teams Win Championships

BT's seventh/eighth grade volleyball teams swept the Parochial Athletic League (PAL) tournament with the eighth grade BLUE team defeating Christ The King and the seventh/eighth grade WHITE team defeating St. Margaret Mary.

7. New Tradition Helps Fifth Grade Make A Splash

As a refreshing welcome to Middle School, Dean of Students Bill Harrell helped the Class of 2029 jump into fifth grade AND Theisen Pool.

8. One Act Performance Earns Multiple Accolades

A cohort of BT thespians new to the One Act performance format had a great first showing, debuting *Romeo and Juliet: A Tale of Two Balconies*. At the Frontier Conference One Act Competition, Fruzsina Roka, '25, who played Shakespeare's Romeo, earned Outstanding Actress, and at the District Competition, all the actors garnered Superior ratings for their performances.

Tuition Reset:

A bold path FORWARD

Toward the end of January 2022, as BT families settled into second semester, Brownell Talbot's administrators and trustees were laser focused on the 2022-2023 school year budget. As part of this annual process, Head of School Kristi N. Gibbs, Ed.D., and Executive Director of Business Shari Jensen work with the Finance and Investment Committee of BT's Board of Trustees to set the next year's tuition rates.

This year, there was an energy in the room - one not often associated with budgeting meetings.

"It was exciting to look at the plan we put together and realize the hard work and fiscal responsibility the school demonstrated during the past five years would result in good news for every member of the BT community," said Gibbs.

The foundation for positive change was set by progress the school had been making in other areas. Since establishing its current strategic plan in 2019, the school has introduced cost saving measures across all areas of the school to bring its operating expenses down; the school's endowment grew by 28%, providing greater income stability; and the enrollment challenges that the pandemic created were addressed and BT returned to pre-pandemic enrollment numbers (429 students today versus 423 in August 2019).

However, while new enrollment was up 70% for the 2021-2022 school year, that growth was realized mostly in Lower and Middle School where the school now has wait lists at several grades. In contrast, Upper School enrollment increased by 11% and was at 73% capacity of its optimal size this year.

After digging into enrollment data, BT pinpointed two primary reasons families have chosen not to enroll: the cost

of Upper School tuition and the size of the Upper School student body.

To address these concerns, the Finance and Investment Committee tested several tuition models, ultimately deciding to reset tuition for Upper School to \$15,000. The reset positions BT to increase Upper School enrollment to its optimal size, which will enrich the social culture and learning experiences BT offers while also retaining an environment that requires active participation by the students and provides personalized attention and support from the faculty and staff.

"All of the high-quality elements that distinguish a BT education - faculty at the top of their field; outstanding, globally focused academics; superior college placements; and robust athletics, activities, and arts programs - will remain as strong as they've been in the past," said Gibbs. "BT will continue to enroll academically minded students who have enthusiasm for and motivation toward maximizing their educational opportunities."

This is the first time in the school's 158-year history that tuition has been dramatically reduced. Although it was the most significant change introduced, it was not the only one. In another first, the school announced a 0% tuition increase for the second year in a row for Lower and Middle School families for the 2022-2023 school year.

By resetting tuition at a price competitive to other Omaha private school options, BT has made it easier for Omaha families to give their children a rigorous, globally minded education.

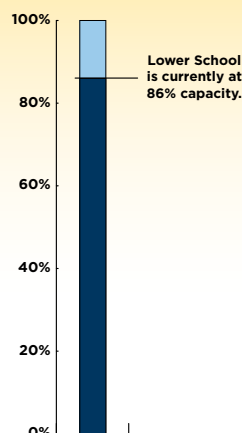
For more information about the tuition reset, contact Director of Admissions Kim Schinzel at kim.schinzel@brownell.edu.

The factors that determine optimal size are specific to each division level and include:

- Teacher to student ratios - what ratio ensures personalized attention and differentiation appropriate to the grade level?
- Physical space and resources - how do we provide the best learning environment on our campus as it exists today?
- The number of students at each grade level - what size creates the best social dynamics?

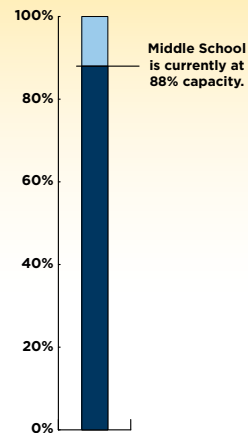
Lower School (Early Years - grade 4)

Optimal size 213
Class size 14-16



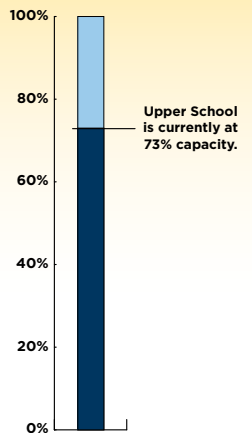
Middle School (Grades 5-8)

Optimal size 144
36-40 students per grade
Class size 14-18



Upper School (Grades 9-12)

Optimal size 160
40 students per grade
Class size 16-20





Beyond Expectations. Beyond the Classroom.



Brownell Talbot has introduced BT Beyond - the umbrella program that includes enrichment programs, before and after care, youth sports, swim team, summer camp, and for-credit summer classes. Jenn Sherer leads BT Beyond and manages the six programs and offerings.



One of the most unique BT Beyond offerings, BT's summer camp program Camp Discovery, is open to all children, not just BT students. Omaha families are choosing to attend Camp Discovery because it offers a true day camp experience - meaning, on any given day, campers participate in a full slate of

activities that focus on physical, artistic, academic, and social emotional development. The camps are taught by BT teachers ensuring they are fun while also mindful that the academic components are on par with the high standards of a BT education.

"We have put intentional focus on the continuity of our offerings," said Sherer. "If you enjoyed learning from and engaging with BT's faculty during

summer camp, you can apply that learning to the after school programs that are of equally high quality, taught by the same teachers."

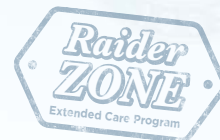
As BT Beyond continues to grow in its offerings and reputation, the theme of continuity remains at the forefront of priorities. Sherer has plans to expand opportunities. For example, Lower School students will soon be able to participate in VEX Robotics which will feed directly into the Middle and Upper School VEX Robotics programs.

"BT Beyond has the potential to accelerate students' learning and involvement in so many facets of the BT experience," Sherer said. "I can't wait to see where we can take this as we continue to go beyond the classroom, beyond the curriculum, and beyond families' expectations."

Families looking for auxiliary opportunities can now navigate BT Beyond offerings all in one place at brownell.edu/BTbeyond.

BT Beyond

Beyond the classroom. Beyond your expectations.



See BT's summer camp offerings at brownell.edu/camps

VISUAL STORYTELLING



As Academy Award winning cinematographer Mauro Fiore finished his moderated session for Middle School students, Dean of Students Bill Harrell opened it up for questions. Immediately a dozen hands shot into the air. Students peppered Fiore with questions - "What's your favorite film you've worked on?" "How long did it take to film *Spider-Man: No Way Home*?" "What are wrap parties like?" - until Harrell finally directed students to head to their next class. It was apparent that, if allowed, the students would have kept Fiore at BT all afternoon, soaking up his knowledge of film and getting an insider's view into Hollywood.

On Tuesday, December 7, Brownell Talbot welcomed Fiore to campus to speak to Middle and Upper School students about his education and

professional experience as a visual artist. Fiore won the Academy Award for Best Cinematography for his work on the 2009 film *Avatar*. His film credits include *Training Day*, *The Magnificent Seven*, *Tears of the Sun*, *Smokin' Aces*, *The Kingdom*, and *X-Men: Dark Phoenix*. His most recent work was as the director of photography for *Spider-Man: No Way Home*.

As a film's cinematographer, or director of photography, Fiore sets and supports the overall look and mood of a film's visual narrative. Cinematography comprises all on-screen visual elements including lighting, framing, composition, camera motion, camera angles, film selection, lens choices, depth of field, zoom, focus, color, exposure, and filtration.

Fiore's visit to campus served as the first in a series of visual artists who will meet with BT students through the newly developed BT Visual Arts Fund. This series has been made possible by Jun Kaneko Studio and BT parent Troia Schonlau.

BT has no shortage of students skilled in visual arts and interested in the film industry. They filled Swanson Auditorium, creating a buzz of excitement, as Fiore took to the stage to speak, first to Upper School students and later Middle School.

After the two events concluded, junior Emma Gould, who is preparing to apply to film school, had the opportunity to speak one on one with Fiore.

Gould: *What inspired your passion for cinematography?*

Fiore: I don't come from a strong theatre background like many filmmakers do. Since high school, I have been interested in photography. The recording of light became my obsession so I migrated to cinematography in film school pretty quickly.



Gould: *What foundations did you learn in art classes that are applicable to what you do?*

Fiore: The most interesting class I ever took was 2D and 3D design, which basically taught me the visual language of how you describe things - experiences, balance of lines, composition, transitions of color. Those foundational skills and visual language have been very beneficial in my career.

Gould: *What significant challenges have you faced as a cinematographer and how have you overcome it?*

Fiore: Maybe in the beginning it was technically challenging, but the most persistent challenging part is relationships. Filmmaking involves a very large group of people who you are trying to manage all day long. And the happier they are, the more they will contribute and collaborate, ultimately helping to create a better product.

Gould: *What has been the most interesting production you have worked on?*

Fiore: Every film, show, and commercial I have worked on has been rewarding in some way or another. One of the first films I was involved with was *Schindler's List*. The opportunity to share such a historically relevant and important story with a huge audience was an honor. It was a story that needed to be told, and I was incredibly lucky to be a part of it.

Gould: *What advice would you give to students entering the film industry?*

Fiore: I really believe in going to college and studying film. A lot of people say that the quicker you can get into the industry, the better. But I don't believe that. The only way you can really know all the aspects in a film is to do them yourself - physically putting it together, from filming to editing, to the music to getting it on screen. You get that experience in film school. You don't get that if you go into the business as a production assistant. Film school also inspires you to develop your own path. It's such an expansive business and there are lots of aspects of the business you may not even know about unless you learn about them in film school.





DEFINING "BEST"

Everyone’s criteria for deeming something “the best” undoubtedly varies, but it is quite likely that high on most people’s checklist for schools is the quality of teaching. Brownell Talbot’s current cadre of faculty boast 1,016 years of teaching (490 at BT). And as much as they love to teach, they also love to learn: 81% have a master’s degree or higher and three have doctorates.

The numbers are impressive, but what stands out most is their ability to make students feel known, inspired, and challenged and families feel welcomed and valued.

“As parents of a ‘lifer,’ we have boundless gratitude for the compassionate, nurturing, and loving family environment we have experienced at BT since our son was three years old,” said BT parent Dr. Richard Vinci.

Knowing students and families well allows BT teachers to be better suited to anticipate and meet each student’s needs. It is a gift to be able to have history with a family, where there is an understanding and trust established that doesn’t have to be recreated each academic year. BT teachers are able to anticipate needs and challenge students in the classroom in a way that only comes with established relationships. And outside the classroom, they coach and support students in activities, sports, and clubs, creating an environment where students feel confident taking a chance because they know and trust the adults around them.

“Our graduates leave BT with the skills to advocate for themselves and form connections with their future professors, coworkers, and supervisors because they have gained so much experience at BT communicating and building relationships with adults outside of their immediate family,” said Director of College Counseling and Guidance Brianna Vander Vorst.

BT teachers hold students in such high esteem - they believe in their students’ abilities and potential so strongly, that they challenge their students to stretch themselves.

“Mrs. (Carrie) Rise is the reason that I love to program,” said Akshay Mehta, ’22. “In seventh grade she recruited me to join the school robotics team. There was always something about programming that intrigued me. Mrs. Rise constantly pushed me to explore that. Without Mrs. Rise, I don’t think I would want to pursue computer science like I do today.”

“Every faculty member at BT is completely dedicated to the students,” said Riley Hawkins, ’22. “You can tell, it is truly their passion to teach. They want to better the world by putting their all into educating us. I will always be grateful for every one of my teachers at BT.”

Share your favorite memory of a BT teacher at brownell.edu/best.

For the fifth year in a row, Brownell Talbot was awarded top honors in Best of Omaha’s best private elementary school category. Niche.com, the popular ranking and review site devoted to educational institutions, also recognized BT as Nebraska’s best private K-12 school, best private high school, and best high school for STEM education.



BT FUND

A gift to the BT Fund is instrumental in building community, strengthening the institution, and enhancing the experience of every student.

Your participation has a direct and lasting impact and ensures BT can:

ATTRACT AND RETAIN talented, world class faculty and staff.

EXPAND HEALTH AND WELLNESS resources to support each student's social emotional and physical well-being.

OFFER STUDENT PROGRAMING in the areas of world language, visual arts, vocal and instrumental music, and drama.

STRENGTHEN STUDENT PROGRAMMING to expand our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES in athletics and activities for students at all levels.



The BT Fund goal is 100% participation from BT faculty and staff, Board of Trustees, and families. Participation is an important part of the school's culture of philanthropy and works to cover the difference in the cost of tuition and the cost to educate a student at BT.

On behalf of BT students, faculty, and staff, thank you for your participation and generosity!

Every gift matters! Make your gift or pledge today at brownell.edu/BTfund

SUPPORTING OUR
MISSION

40 YEARS OF GALA

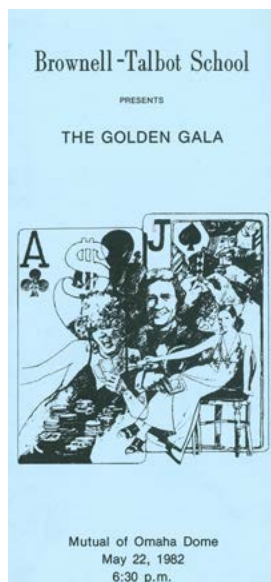
Friday, May 6, and Saturday, May 7

The beauty, artistry, and history of France are unmatched. Countless magazines, books, and movies have dedicated their works to the joys of the French lifestyle and its enormous impact on culture, food, and fashion. But the true magic of France lies in its diversity, commitment to equality, and overall sense of unity and pride. In many ways, Brownell Talbot embodies the same principles. As a leader in a globally engaged education, BT students understand that the world is their classroom. And this year's gala is another opportunity for our students and community to embrace that global mindset and say *Oui* to BT!

Oui, BT! will feature a two-day gala: a sophisticated soirée on Friday evening at the Cottonwood Hotel and an adults-only carnival on Saturday at Brownell Talbot. A two-day gala weekend ensures every member of the BT community has the opportunity to attend, participate, and support the school in a meaningful way. Guided by the leadership of Megan Belcher (parent to Finch, '27, and Emme, '29) and Laura and Brad Crosby (parents to Conner, '19, and Colten, '20), thoughtful planning for our May event will be paramount as we work to raise critical dollars for our amour, Brownell Talbot.

Gala will honor the James family (Barrett, x'77, Allison, '78, Lawrence R. "Chip" II, '88, and Laura) who have been loyal supporters of Brownell Talbot since the 1980s. It was in 1982 when Jeannette James, the family's matriarch, brought the idea of throwing a party to raise money for the school to Headmaster Dianne Desler. Jeannette had heard of similar events' success and thought it would be an impactful way to boost funding for the school. Jeannette and her husband, the late Dr. Lawrence James, became the school's first "Golden Gala" chairs in 1982. The casino themed event, held at the Mutual of Omaha Dome, brought friends and supporters of BT together and raised \$39,000 for the school. A successful gala came at a critical time in Brownell Talbot's history and set in motion a tradition that has since raised more than \$14 million dollars for the school.

Visit brownell.edu/gala for more details as we look forward to celebrating 40 years of gala in May!



Catalog cover from BT's first gala in 1982

SAVE THE DATE FOR



GALA LEADERSHIP

Honorary Chairs

The James Family

Gala Chairs

Megan Belcher

Laura and Brad Crosby

Steering Committee

Advertising

Ashley DuBois

Decorations

Patra Pakieser and Casie Schlueter

Exceptional Events

Natalia Atchley and Fatima Basith

Family Baskets

Kaleena Biggerstaff, Annika George, Annie Linberg '04, and Jamie Ryan

Live Auction

Sheila Christ, Tiffany Dencklau, and Fatima Khan

Mailings & Publicity

Brenda Khoury and Anna Lee Welch

Raffle

Valerie and Casey Garrigan

Silent Auction

Kristin Barnes, Megan Harding, and Angeline Larson

Sponsorships & Underwriting

Shervin Ansari, Brady Gibson, Renee Wessels, and Debbie Wood

Student Projects

Troia Schonlau

SUPPORTING OUR
MISSION

**Tickets on sale now
at brownell.edu/gala.**

Capital Campaign UPDATE

Momentum for Brownell Talbot's capital campaign is building as the Brownell Talbot Board of Trustees and the Advancement Team continue to check off key milestones in preparation for a campaign that will address both capital and endowment priorities.

KEY MILESTONES

The positive results of the planning study findings were shared.

The 2021 planning study results were overwhelmingly positive and were shared broadly in the Summer 2021 *Fireside* magazine with a summary letter sent to all planning study participants. You can find the results of the study online at brownell.edu/masterplan. Completing the planning study and identifying outcomes was the first step of many as we make preparations for a robust and successful campaign.

Brownell Talbot has partnered with Tetrad Property Group.

Tetrad Property Group (TPG) specializes in implementing innovative and fiscally responsible real estate and construction solutions for private investment and public institutions throughout the Midwest. TPG conducted an independent review of BT's approved master plan and as a result did

not identify any significant material changes but did make some modest updates to construction cost estimates and timelines. TPG also provided a creative and impactful six-phase construction sequence that BT will use as its construction roadmap. Currently, TPG is overseeing the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for architect selection.

Brownell Talbot campaign leadership is forming.

The Brownell Talbot Board of Trustees and the Advancement Team have begun strategic conversations with BT leaders and supporters about future leadership roles for the capital campaign. We are delighted for the opportunity to partner with families who have made long-lasting and impactful commitments to the success of BT, past, present, and future.

A sincere thank you to the following Brownell Talbot supporters for their early endorsement and leadership:

Dianne Desler

Laura and Brad Crosby

Chip James, '88

Diny and Jim Landen

Lori and David Scott, '81

Jan and Chip Vrana



Alumni Spotlight

Ruben Zendejas, Class of 2012



I am in the middle of my second year of law school at Arizona State University in Phoenix, Arizona, pursuing my J.D. with a certificate in Indian law and policy. I am the secretary for ASU Law's chapter of Native American Law Students Association. I am also a proud father of two little ones, Sebastian and Cecilia.

What led you to pursuing a law degree?

I come from a family of attorneys and judges, so law school has always been on my radar. However, in undergrad I began becoming even more involved in issues facing Indian Country and other indigenous groups in the United States and knew that going to law school would be one of the best ways to actually effectuate positive change for Tribes and tribal citizens across the country.

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

BT helped me prepare for the academic rigor that would come later in my academic career. There have been a number of times where I have been studying something in either undergrad or law school and think, "hey, I think I remember touching on this subject all the way back in high school." Having that exposure to so many different areas in academia has been helpful in trying to grasp new concepts, because a lot of the time they aren't entirely new.

What role does Omaha Tribal dance and culture play in your life?

For Native American cultures, dance is more than just movement. It is a learning tool and a way to pass on traditions, stories, and life lessons. For example, in Umónhon tradition, it's the grass dancers that would go out first before a ceremony or gathering, and they would be the ones to flatten the tall prairie grass for the rest of the dancers. It was their responsibility in creating an environment and arena that was safe and accessible for the others to dance, share their songs,

and offer their prayers on the dance grounds. Having recently entered fatherhood, this tradition has taken on a bigger meaning for me. Seeing my own children begin to grow and find their personalities, I have become more cognizant of what I am doing to lead the way for them and their futures. It also has given me a chance to reflect on those that have come before me and helped clear a path for me to get to where I am now. I'm thankful for all of those family members, teachers, and mentors that have laid the groundwork and helped to create an environment where I could learn and grow.

Last book you read?

I just finished *The Paper Menagerie and Other Short Stories* by Ken Liu. It is a collection of short stories in the genre of sci-fi and fantasy but yet really grounded in history and realism. The stories masterfully tackle topics of race, culture, identity, family, and the struggle of immigrants and other minority groups in a really engaging and interesting way.

What advice would you give to current BT students?

Don't burn out or be too hard on yourself. In high school, it can feel like the rest of your future is hinged on how well you do in class or all the extra-curricular activities you need to participate in. Yes, do your best and try your hardest, but try not to let the stress of school take its toll on you. There's no one set path or definition on what being "successful" is. Discover what you like and what you don't like. What engages you, what doesn't. And find joy in what you are doing.

What do you do for fun?

How do you de-stress?

I love to play basketball. There's no better way for me to get out some of the stresses of Law school than playing a couple of pick up games. During the pandemic, however, I learned to appreciate simply going on walks or Sunday drives with the family and it's something we love to still do as a family together.



BT'S LEGACY STUDENTS



First Row

Ansel Marsh, '35
Krystin, '96, and Joel Marsh
Claire Thielen, '36
Nick, '01, and Jennifer, '01, Thielen
Alex Kroupa, '37
Mike, '03, and Molly Kroupa
Sanaya Pomerleau, '36
Chris Pomerleau and Shivani Sharma, '04

Second Row

LillyAnna Dingman, '34
Heidi Venteicher Dingman, '94, and
Richard Dingman
Julia Kroupa, '34
Mike, '03, and Molly Kroupa
Isaiah Bradford, '34
Erica, '97, and Steffon Bradford

Kimbo Hawkins, '34
Kim, x'98, and Amy Hawkins
Victoria Molai, '33
Annie Linberg, '04, and Nabil Molai
Lia Saxena, '33
Shikhar, x'99, and Kristin Saxena
Sai Saxena, '31
Shikhar, x'99, and Kristin Saxena

Third Row

Leah Hamilton, '28
Rebecca Hamilton, '90
Noli Marsh, '28
Krystin, '96, and Joel Marsh
Olivia Bradford, '31
Erica, '97, and Steffon Bradford
Miranda Clark, '29
David, x'74, and Kate Clark
Ben Lanum, '31
Nicole, '98, and Wade Lanum

Shaan Saxena, '29
Shikhar, x'99, and Kristin Saxena
Corbett Lanum, '26
Nicole, '98, and Wade Lanum

Fourth Row

Riley Hawkins, '22
Kim, x'98, and Amy Hawkins
Amelia Bell, '25
Belinda Beavers, '87, and Shelby Bell
Dylan Witherspoon, '25
Pat Witherspoon, '79, and
Shannon Witherspoon
Jonathan Massey, '23
Peter, '81, and Michelle Massey
Jack Cohen, '23
Mike, '87, and Karen Cohen
Dexter Clark, '26
David, x'74, and Kate Clark

Addison Hawkins, '27
Kim, x'98, and Amy Hawkins

Not pictured:

Britain Brooks, '27
Michael, '99, and Andi Brooks
Nathan Brown, '23
Chuck, x'95, and Danielle Brown
Eva Cohen, '26
Mike, '87, and Karen Cohen
Isabella Molai, '35
Annie Linberg, '04, and Nabil Molai
Sonu Saxena, '27
Shikhar, x'99, and Kristin Saxena
Dylan Scott, '23
W. David, '81, and Lori Scott

ALUMNI *on Campus*



Alumni Homecoming Tailgate

Over 40 alumni, parents, and friends attended the annual Alumni Homecoming Tailgate. This year alumni celebrated in a new location between the Fitness Center and the Chapel and watched the Raider football team win the homecoming game!

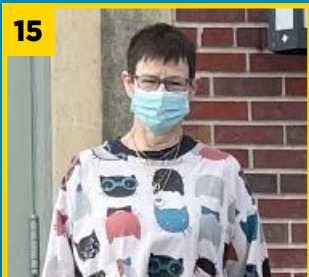
- 1** Tanner Wiebelhaus, Kirk Swartzbaugh, '88, former faculty Dave Brown, former Headmaster Dianne Desler, Paul Harding, '11, Megan Fowler, '11, and Rachel (Fowler) Sullivan, '11
- 2** Ismael Ali, '21, Dr. Kristi Gibbs, and Janki Patel, '21
- 3** Jerry Reimer, Charlie Cohen, '19, Marla and Bob Cohen, '73
- 4** Claire Cenovic, '23, and Thalia K. Lawson-Betum, '21

Class of 1980-1985 Reunion

The classes of 1980-1985 celebrated their reunion on October 1-2, 2021. Alumni and their families and friends took part in a reunion tailgate, campus tour, memorial chapel service, and social hour.

- 5** Peter Massey, '81, David Peebler, '80, Scott Lucey, '81, and Susan Hanrahan, '81
- 6** Kay Levenson, '80, David Peebler, '80, and Andrea Bergquist, '84
- 7** Scott Lucey, '81, and Tim Heller, '82
- 8** Former faculty member Jackie Byers, Tim Mills, '83, Carrie Meiers, '83, and Kathy Simpson, '81
- 9** Carrie Meiers, '83, Charlie Woods, '83, and Tommie Adams, Jr., '84

There were a number of alumni events during the first half of the school year. As an alum, you are always welcome to drop by and say hi! Contact Director of Alumni and Donor Engagement Kenley Sturdivant-Wilson at kenley.sturdivantwilson@brownell.edu or 402.556.3772 ext.1013 to schedule a visit.



Hardwood Hustle

Hardwood Hustle - the Alumni Basketball Game returned this year after a short hiatus because of COVID-19. More than 40 alumni, parents, and friends came together to watch and play a friendly game of basketball.

10 Maddie Vovk, '19, Eliza Rice, '19, and Emalie Wightman, '20

11 Lillian Cohen, '19, Anna Kotula, '19, and Cheyenne Hanson, '16

12 Will Calderon, '15, and Sadie Rich, '15

13 Class of 2021, back row: Tommy Pugsley, Oscar Henery, '21, Austin Vetter, Ismael Ali, Jake Gibbs, Matthew Alli, front row: Olivia Vovk, Janki Patel, Thalia Lawson-Betum

14 Hardwood Hustle participants

Visits

15 Rev. Suzy (Stryker) Lynch, '67, dropped by to tour the school and especially the chapel where she got married.

Santa Stop

16 Jainaha Srikumar, '15, and Sadie Rich, '15, and her puppy Eloise stopped by to see Santa during the annual Santa Stop on campus.

Faculty and Staff Holiday Meals

17 BT's Board of Trustees generously provided all faculty and staff with an "Italian feast to go" at the beginning of winter break. Colten, '20, and Connor, '19, assisted their mom (and BT Board of Trustees Chair) Laura Crosby in handing out the meals.

ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

The Alumni News and Notes section of *Fireside* celebrates your recent accomplishments and those of your fellow alums. Share your news of births, weddings, career moves, and any life-changing events. We publish alumni submissions and any other news we receive from friends, employers, and media sources.

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

Ron Kiger, Jr., '79, survived by sister Kim (Kiger) Slickman, '75
D. June 12, 2021

Josephine (Jones) Day, '36, preceded in death by sister, Ernestine (Jones) Bergquist, '35
D. July 7, 2021

Katherine "Katie" Gurtis, '11
D. December 23, 2021

Susan (Day) Fonda Hart, '49, survived by children Matthew Fonda, x'75, John Fonda, x'78, preceded in death by sister, Marcia (Day) Seidel, '54
D. July 28, 2021

Sara (Cattrell) Hildebrand, x'62
D. August 3, 2021

Joann (Eklund) Hoffman, x'50
D. August 9, 2021

Gail (Young) Koch, '49
D. October 15, 2021

Maryanne (Hough) Harry, '60
D. October 21, 2021

Carol (Swanson) Price, '55
D. November 23, 2021

FRIENDS:

Debra Jo Veylupek survived by daughter Melissa (Veylupek) Turner, '96, preceded in death by daughter, Jill Veylupek-Query, '92
D. June 14, 2021

Marc Hufnagl, former faculty member. Hufnagl taught English and dance at Brownell Talbot from 1993 through 2000. After retirement from The Harker School (San Jose, CA) in 2016 Marc lived in Switzerland until his death.
D. July 3, 2021

Mort Sheffloe survived by daughter Susan Sheffloe Speer, '81
D. July 8, 2021

Sanford Smith survived by daughter Jennifer (Smith) Knapp, '85
D. August 16, 2021

Anita Shadbolt, former teacher assistant and extended care assistant in the Lower School from October 1990 through May 1995.
D. September 8, 2021

Ellis Goodman survived by children, Kris Goodman, '94, Heather Goodman, '00, and Nicole Goodman, '02
D. September 9, 2021

Rosemary Patricia Zukaitis survived by grandchildren Jack Zukaitis, '10, and Julie Zukaitis, '12
D. September 18, 2021

Dr. Maurice Mathews survived by grandchildren Carly Mathews, '04, Drew Mathews, '09, and Haley Mathews, '12
D. September 21, 2021

Marie Clifford survived by son Peter Massey, '81, grandchildren Andrew Massey, '21, and Jonathan Massey, '23
D. October 10, 2021

Sandra J. Blessing-Coufal survived by son Mak Coufal, '10
D. October 22, 2021

Submissions as of Decemer 31, 2021

NEWS

IN MEMORIAM



Walter Scott, Jr. had an enormous impact on BT, and we mourn his passing while also celebrating all that Walter has done for the Omaha community.

Walter and Suzanne were visionary supporters on BT's campus for generations. They generously supported many projects at BT, most notably Project 88 and the 1999 Capital Campaign, and served as gala honorary chairs in 2011. They made a significant impact on BT students in many different ways including helping to sustain BT's scholarship program and leading the way for major improvements to the physical campus, most recognizably the Sue and Walter Scott, Jr. Gymnasium. Walter and Suzanne were the grandparents of 11 Brownell Talbot students.

Walter's son David Scott, '81, was the school's first graduate to serve as president of the Board of Trustees, an office he held for 10 years. David's wife, Lori, currently serves on the Board of Trustees.

D. September 25, 2021

Savannah Brym, '20, joined the varsity girls volleyball team as an assistant coach.

Will Calderon, '15, joined the varsity girls basketball team as an assistant coach.

Jules DeSalvo, (music teacher) and his wife, Sarah, welcomed their fifth child, Samantha Diane, on June 10, 2021.

Charlotte Hedican, '15, was cast in the production of *Bright Star* at the Omaha Community Playhouse.

Laura Liu, '19, accepted a wealth management internship with Bank of America in Chicago for the summer of 2022.

Dr. Saidah Mayo, '08, recently opened a new floral business, Of the Vine (ofthevineflorals.com).

Chloe Tran-Thompson, '14, and husband, Aaron, welcomed a son, Aspen, on September 16, 2021.

Jamie Unger Beaner, (school counselor) and her husband, Chris, welcomed daughter, Kyla, on June 11, 2021.

Let's Connect!

Feeling social? Follow us on Instagram @BrownellTalbotSchool and on Facebook @BrownellTalbotAlumni

Looking to network? Join the Brownell Talbot College Preparatory School Alumni group on LinkedIn.

New contact information? Is your mail going to your parents address? It's time to update the school at brownell.edu/hello.

Help us connect with lost alumni. Visit brownell.edu/alumni/lost-alumni if you have a connection to anyone on the list, reach out to Kenley at kenley.sturdivantwilson@brownell.edu.

REUNION

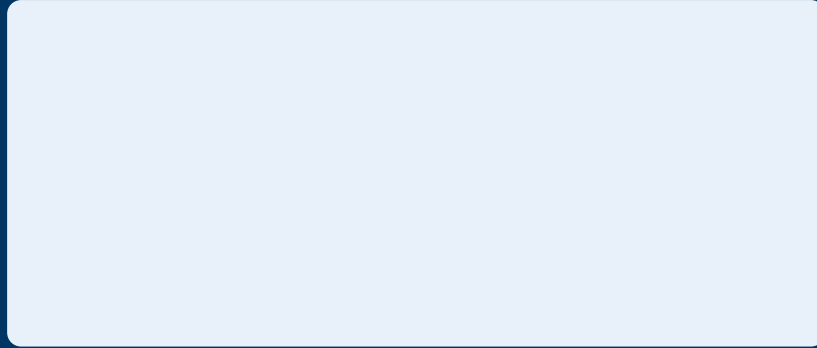
The 1970-1974 Class Reunion is scheduled for fall 2022 and we are stoked! Planning is underway to make this reunion out of sight! Do me a solid and watch your inbox, mailbox, and join the Facebook group for stellar reunion updates. Search for BT 70-74 Reunion in 2022 to join this groovy group. Right on! We can't wait to see you there.



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

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