



# Fireside

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF BROWNELL TALBOT SCHOOL

## Chef Jet Tila Visits Campus

more on page 3







If I were to assign a theme to the 2018-2019 school year, it would most likely be one of discovery. As a school community, we are in the midst of two processes that allow for a great deal of self-evaluation: we are working on a strategic plan to guide decision-making for the next five years, and we are conducting a comprehensive self-study report as part of the accreditation cycle for the Independent Schools Association of the Central States. Both of these processes require faculty and staff and other members of the BT community, including alumni, to spend a great deal of time discussing, collaborating, and coming to a consensus about who we are as a school, where we excel, and where we should focus our efforts in order to continue as the premier educational institution in Nebraska.

On a personal note, at the end of January, I will have the opportunity to participate in a fully funded fellowship program hosted by Columbia University. I am one of 20 school heads from across the world invited to participate in this two-week intensive study to examine educational issues facing independent and international schools. I anticipate it will provide a great professional development experience, and it will give me an excellent opportunity to reflect on what we have learned about ourselves through the strategic planning and accreditation processes.

Naturally, there is a great deal of discovery that happens throughout each school year, but especially in the first semester. It's a time when students make new friends and identify new passions, and faculty and staff gain an understanding of how to support each student to best position the individual for success. I am excited to put what we have learned to good use during second semester - collectively, we are ready to be inspired and rise to new challenges as we strive to prepare students for college and life!

I encourage you, our treasured alumni, to stay engaged with our strategic planning process and the many other exciting things happening at BT. Update your contact information at [brownell.edu/hello](http://brownell.edu/hello) to ensure you receive our bi-monthly e-newsletter, invitations to campus events, and *Fireside* magazine. I also encourage you to stay connected through social media on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Happy New Year!

*Kristi N. Gibbs*

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](mailto:renae.mackender@brownell.edu).

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING — ON CAMPUS? —



## 1. Mathletes Claim 12th Straight Championship

In early November, BT's math team competed in the University of Nebraska - Lincoln's Math Day. The team walked away with their 12th Class IV State Championship title in Probe I. Out of the 1,584 individual competitors in all classes, BT had four top finishers.

## 2. Tips from a Celebrity Chef

Chef Jet Tila visited campus on November 2 to perform a live cooking demonstration for students, parents, faculty, and staff. As a thank you to the Digital Media students who filmed the event, Tila visited the class to give insight into the production of cooking television. The campus visit was coordinated through Flik, BT's dining service partner.

## 3. Students Serenade Senior Citizens

BT's third and fourth grade choir, Serenading Raiders, took their show on the road in December to The Heritage at Sterling Ridge senior living community to spread some holiday cheer!

## 4. Lower School Named Best in Omaha

For the second year in a row, the public has named BT the Best Private Elementary School in Omaha Magazine's Best of Omaha contest.

## 5. Thespians Perform at The Holland

Earlier this month, the theatre troupe performed BT's fall musical, *Cinderella*, at Omaha's Holland Performing Arts Center as part of the Nebraska Thespian Festival.





### 6. BT Launches Masters Swim Program

In September, BT Aquatics launched the Masters and Adult Fitness Swim Program for adults 18 and older. The program is part of the U.S. Masters Swimming program and is open to swimmers of all skill levels. Visit [brownell.edu/masters](http://brownell.edu/masters) for more information.

### 7. Girls Golf Goes to State

For the ninth time in 11 years, BT's girls golf team competed at the state level, playing in the Class C State Championships at River's Edge Golf Course in North Platte, Nebraska. Cecan Porter, '20, placed ninth individually out of more than 90 golfers, and the team placed 11th overall.

### 8. BT Hosts Trunk or Treat and Outdoor Movie

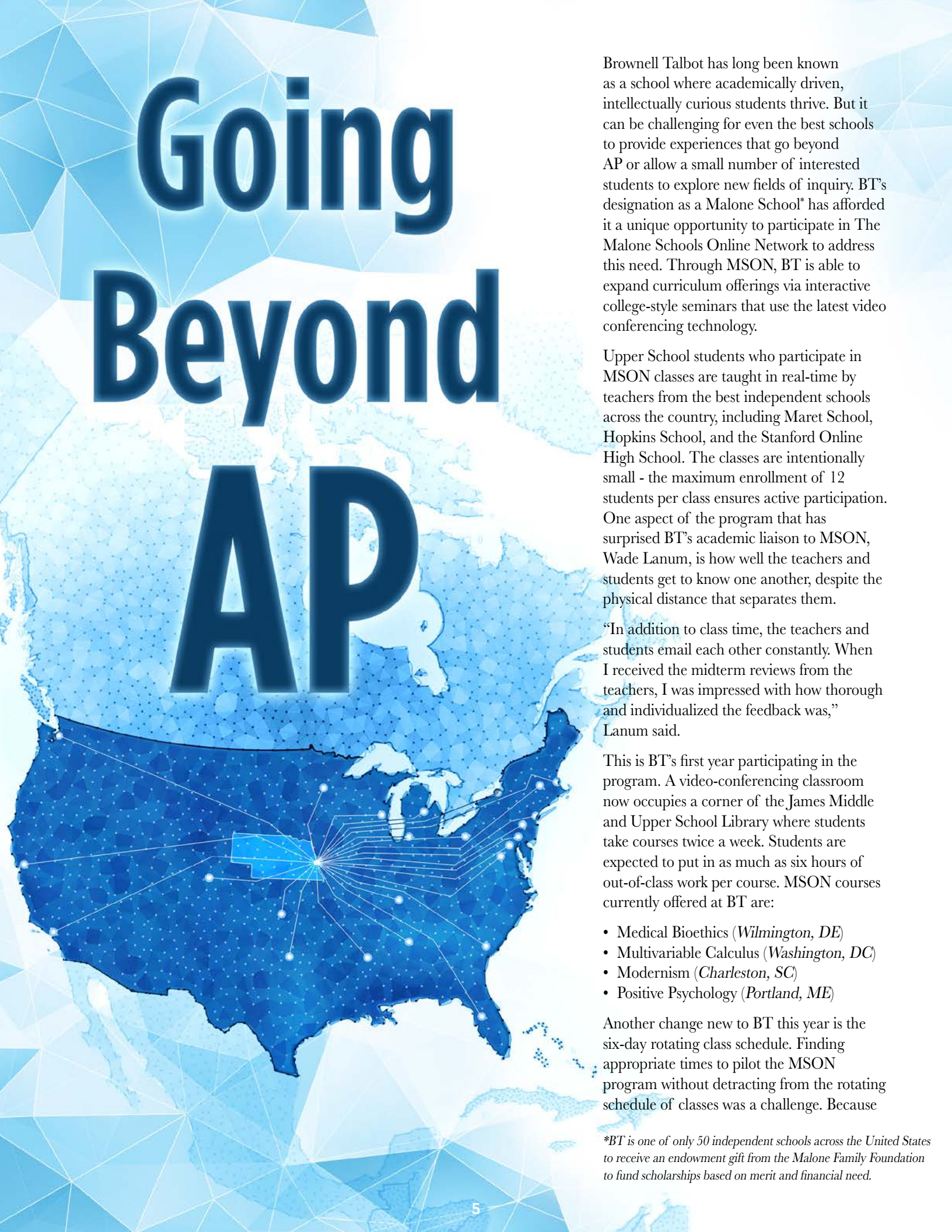
In celebration of Halloween, families, faculty, staff, and alumni were invited to participate in the school's first trunk or treat! It was a huge success, with 20 cars decorated to delight trick or treaters. After prizes were awarded for the best trunk, attendees watched *Monsters, Inc.* on an outdoor movie screen.

### 9. Students Thrive in New Six-Day Rotating Schedule

The start of the school year welcomed a new rotating schedule, with classes meeting four out of every six days to give teachers equal access to each student's best learning times.



# Going Beyond AP



Brownell Talbot has long been known as a school where academically driven, intellectually curious students thrive. But it can be challenging for even the best schools to provide experiences that go beyond AP or allow a small number of interested students to explore new fields of inquiry. BT's designation as a Malone School\* has afforded it a unique opportunity to participate in The Malone Schools Online Network to address this need. Through MSON, BT is able to expand curriculum offerings via interactive college-style seminars that use the latest video conferencing technology.

Upper School students who participate in MSON classes are taught in real-time by teachers from the best independent schools across the country, including Maret School, Hopkins School, and the Stanford Online High School. The classes are intentionally small - the maximum enrollment of 12 students per class ensures active participation. One aspect of the program that has surprised BT's academic liaison to MSON, Wade Lanum, is how well the teachers and students get to know one another, despite the physical distance that separates them.

"In addition to class time, the teachers and students email each other constantly. When I received the midterm reviews from the teachers, I was impressed with how thorough and individualized the feedback was," Lanum said.

This is BT's first year participating in the program. A video-conferencing classroom now occupies a corner of the James Middle and Upper School Library where students take courses twice a week. Students are expected to put in as much as six hours of out-of-class work per course. MSON courses currently offered at BT are:

- Medical Bioethics (*Wilmington, DE*)
- Multivariable Calculus (*Washington, DC*)
- Modernism (*Charleston, SC*)
- Positive Psychology (*Portland, ME*)

Another change new to BT this year is the six-day rotating class schedule. Finding appropriate times to pilot the MSON program without detracting from the rotating schedule of classes was a challenge. Because

*\*BT is one of only 50 independent schools across the United States to receive an endowment gift from the Malone Family Foundation to fund scholarships based on merit and financial need.*



MSON classes are taught by teachers in all US time zones, BT offers 7:00 am classes that end before the official school day starts. The other band of time when BT students take MSON classes is in the afternoon during flex time, which is generally used for extracurriculars or study hall. Students in afternoon classes still miss about 15 minutes of regular class but the rotating schedule ensures they don't miss the same classes all the time.

The program requires students to adhere to a strict attendance policy for MSON courses. When other school commitments create conflicts, Lanum and Director of Technology Rob Uchtman work together to find creative solutions. When Delaney Fitzgerald, '19, needed to perform at a choir competition, Lanum and Uchtman made sure she had the internet connectivity needed on her laptop to be able to find a spot away from the other performers to attend her Medical Bioethics class while at the competition. Similarly, if school is canceled because of weather, students are expected to participate in MSON classes from home. Luckily, the MSON students don't mind the required level of commitment.

"They are taking these classes voluntarily. They have a passion for a subject they want to explore, so the commitment part of it comes easily," said Lanum.

For Carson Propst, '20, the draw of the program was the exploration of a new subject area. Although he plans on majoring in engineering or computers in college, Propst read the class description for Positive Psychology and was intrigued.

"The class focuses on how the brain works and is essentially a guide to living a happier life," said Propst.

Propst attends Positive Psychology on Mondays and Thursdays in the MSON classroom with fellow BT student Emily Wei, '19. The teacher is based out of the Waynflete School in Portland, Maine, and the other students are from independent schools in other states. Each class begins with a question for discussion in which students are challenged to identify the factors that would influence a person's thoughts and decision-making process.

"The best part of the class is realizing, through discussion, just how similar I am to these people from other parts of the country," said Propst.

Propst is enthusiastic about the class and MSON in general, a reaction that was not universal during scheduling last year when the MSON classes were first offered.

"The hesitation that I saw from some students came from not knowing how the technology aspect would affect the classroom experience," said Lanum. Propst notes that his experience has been that the technology is instant, steady, and doesn't distract from class. He expects that more students will apply for MSON classes in the future.

"Last year I didn't really hear anyone talking about the program. But I think a lot of us have been sharing our class experiences and it's piqued interest from others. I wish I could take the class again," he said.

To learn more about the Malone Schools Online Network, visit [maloneschoolsonline.org](http://maloneschoolsonline.org).



Carson Propst, '20, and Emily Wei, '19, attending Positive Psychology.





# Ching Shih, Our Pirate Queen

“It’s crazy to think we started on a piece of poster board in our art room,” said Brianna Liu, ’20, of working with local artist and BT parent Watie White on Brownell Talbot’s newest piece of campus art - a mural project that began in early 2018. Just before summer break last school year, White was invited to BT by art teacher Cody Wheelock to talk with Upper School students about the impact murals can have on a community. Following his visit, White asked for student volunteers to help research, design, and execute a mural he had been commissioned to paint for BT on the south wall in the stairwell that connects the Hitchcock science building and Batchelder Hall.

Six Upper School students worked with White on the mural over the summer: Liu, Kylie Haney, ’20, Anna Kotula, ’19, Eliza Rice, ’19, Lily Teunissen, ’21, and Maddie Whitmore, ’21. The initial meetings consisted of White and the students talking through the story of pirate queen Ching Shih, the mural’s central figure, to identify key themes that resonated with them and conceptualizing how to tell the story within the confines of the stairwell wall.

“It’s not a complete historical retelling of her life. Throughout the project, we discussed how this story is a metaphor for what the girls value now,” said White.

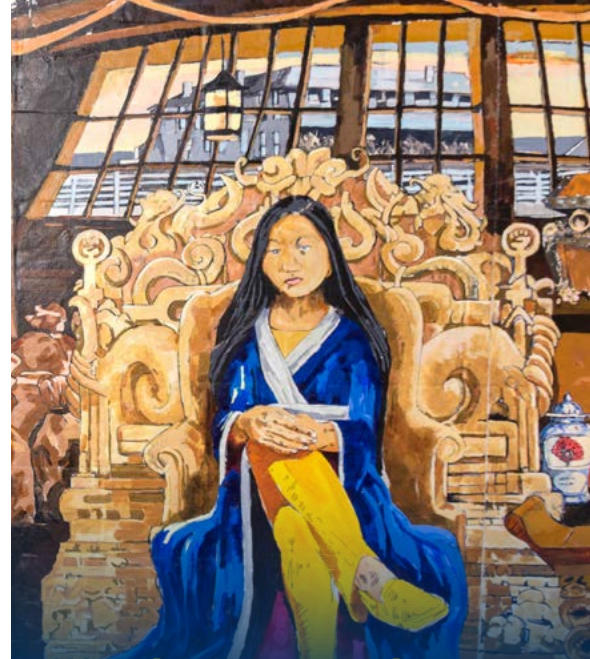
The work was never dull. In between researching Tanka boat villages and pirate weapons of the 19th century, the team talked about cultural shifts in women’s rights, from suffrage to the #MeToo movement and even the latest Wonder Woman movie. The conversations repeatedly came back to an admiration for Ching Shih as an empowered female leader in the male-dominated profession of pirating.

As the theme of female empowerment continued to stand out in their research and planning, the students worked to identify meaningful ways to incorporate their values into the project. The result is an impressive work of art that documents the complex tale of Ching Shih’s life, provides insight into the current generation of Upper School students, and contains personal touches that connect each contributing student artist with their role in the project.

White ensured the students’ contributions to the mural were honored by using the likeness of each girl in the form of a pirate swinging from the bows of the ships, yielding weapons and expressions of fierce determination in protection of the Ching Shih legacy.

“It’s cool that the mural will still be there once we’re gone. Future students may not know us, but the mural will





## The Greatest Pirate Who Ever Lived

The story of Ching Shih is a remarkable one. Due to legal discrimination that prohibited her people, the Guangzhou Tanka ethnic group, from living on land, she grew up in a floating city of tiny family boats. She became a unifying leader who commanded 80,000 pirates. She devised a code of ethics for her pirates that were revolutionary for the time (particularly with regard to the treatment of women). By 1809, the Chinese, the Portuguese, and the British (all of which had sea trading interests in the area where Ching Shih and her fleet were operating) had been unsuccessful in thwarting Ching Shih. To overtake the fleet, the three powers joined forces. Ultimately Ching Shih lost the battle, but she was able to negotiate a pardon from the Chinese emperor and retire without sacrificing the majority of her pirates, herself, or her wealth.

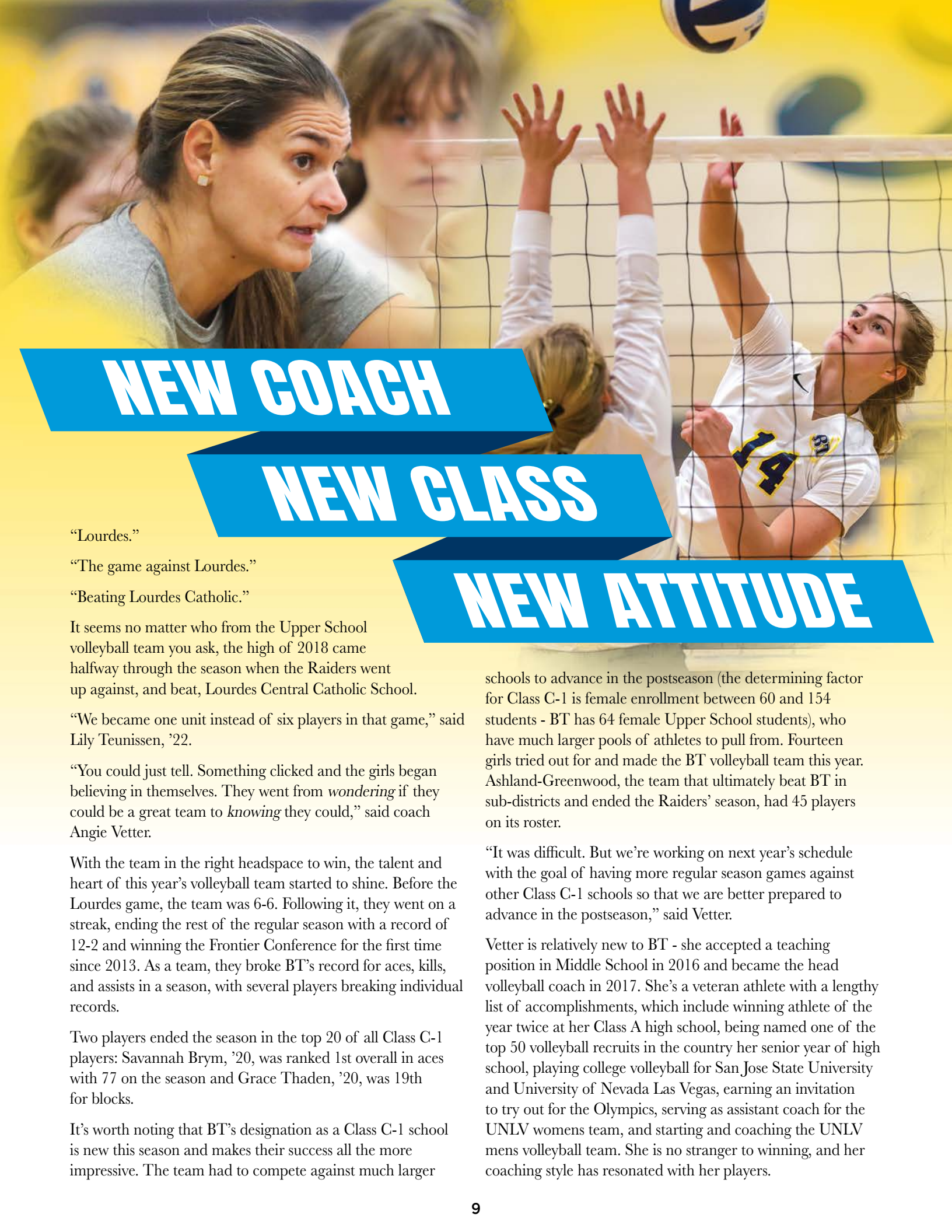
mean something to them, just in a different way,” said Haney.

The project has provided a remarkable learning experience for the students, and going forward the mural will serve as a tool for engagement for the school and an emotional and cultural touchstone for the entire Brownell Talbot community.

“Throughout the project, we discussed how this story is a metaphor for what the girls value now.”







# NEW COACH

# NEW CLASS

# NEW ATTITUDE

“*Lourdes.*”

“*The game against Lourdes.*”

“*Beating Lourdes Catholic.*”

It seems no matter who from the Upper School volleyball team you ask, the high of 2018 came halfway through the season when the Raiders went up against, and beat, Lourdes Central Catholic School.

“We became one unit instead of six players in that game,” said Lily Teunissen, '22.

“You could just tell. Something clicked and the girls began believing in themselves. They went from *wondering* if they could be a great team to *knowing* they could,” said coach Angie Vetter.

With the team in the right headspace to win, the talent and heart of this year’s volleyball team started to shine. Before the Lourdes game, the team was 6-6. Following it, they went on a streak, ending the rest of the regular season with a record of 12-2 and winning the Frontier Conference for the first time since 2013. As a team, they broke BT’s record for aces, kills, and assists in a season, with several players breaking individual records.

Two players ended the season in the top 20 of all Class C-1 players: Savannah Brym, '20, was ranked 1st overall in aces with 77 on the season and Grace Thaden, '20, was 19th for blocks.

It’s worth noting that BT’s designation as a Class C-1 school is new this season and makes their success all the more impressive. The team had to compete against much larger

schools to advance in the postseason (the determining factor for Class C-1 is female enrollment between 60 and 154 students - BT has 64 female Upper School students), who have much larger pools of athletes to pull from. Fourteen girls tried out for and made the BT volleyball team this year. Ashland-Greenwood, the team that ultimately beat BT in sub-districts and ended the Raiders’ season, had 45 players on its roster.

“It was difficult. But we’re working on next year’s schedule with the goal of having more regular season games against other Class C-1 schools so that we are better prepared to advance in the postseason,” said Vetter.

Vetter is relatively new to BT - she accepted a teaching position in Middle School in 2016 and became the head volleyball coach in 2017. She’s a veteran athlete with a lengthy list of accomplishments, which include winning athlete of the year twice at her Class A high school, being named one of the top 50 volleyball recruits in the country her senior year of high school, playing college volleyball for San Jose State University and University of Nevada Las Vegas, earning an invitation to try out for the Olympics, serving as assistant coach for the UNLV womens team, and starting and coaching the UNLV mens volleyball team. She is no stranger to winning, and her coaching style has resonated with her players.





**The Upper School volleyball team won the Frontier Conference championship for the first time since 2013.**

“I love Coach Vetter. We have a strong bond. She’s always there for me. I need a coach who is hard on me but also knows when to give me a confidence boost and point out what I’m doing right. She’s that person,” said Teunissen.

The team has proven to be resilient, which they will need next season. With six players graduating, they will lose almost half of the team. But it’s a challenge that excites the remaining players.

“We’ll be taking a hit,” said Teunissen. “But girls will have a

chance to try positions they haven’t played before. Maybe they’ll be even better.”

With a coach like Vetter, who has played and coached at all levels of the game, even novice players have a place on the team. And if a girl is interested in playing, next season will be the time to join. Brym acknowledges the goals are high but so is the confidence in the team’s ability.

“We want to go to State. Definitely.”



# BT FUND

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE. A COMMITMENT TO GIVING.

2018-2019



## HOW YOUR GIFT MOVES BROWNELL TALBOT FORWARD

Outstanding academic programs and services for students in all divisions

Cutting-edge technology, innovative programs, and quality supplies in the classroom

Recruitment and retention of high-caliber faculty and staff

Key investments to elevate BT's fine arts, athletics, and activities

A broadened ability to focus on mindfulness and social-emotional awareness

More opportunities outside of the classroom to engage in service learning and cultural appreciation

### Introducing

### THE BT FUND GIVING SOCIETIES

Sapphire Society .....	\$12,500+	Mission of Excellence Society ....	\$1,500+
Head of School Society .....	\$7,500+	Brownell Hall Society.....	\$750+
Bishop Talbot Society .....	\$5,000+	St. Matthias Society.....	\$250+
The Gap Group.....	\$3,500+	1863 Society .....	\$1+

*A \$3,500 gift covers the "gap" for one student!*

We invite you to join the society that is most meaningful to your family.

## HOW DO I GIVE?

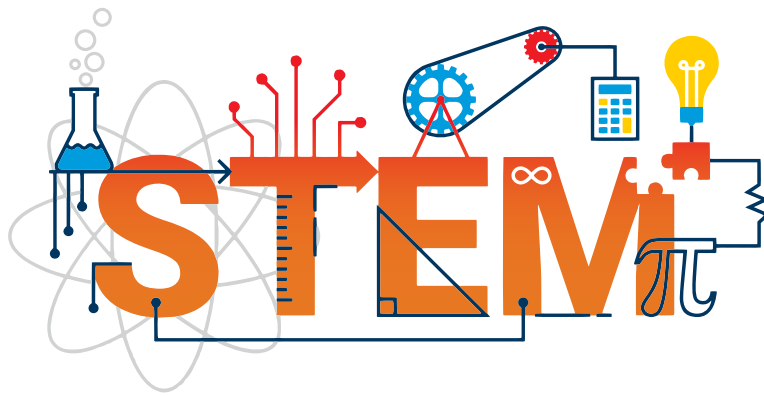
Your tax-deductible gift can be made by check, cash, or online with a credit card at:

[brownell.edu/btfund](http://brownell.edu/btfund)

For more information, contact:

Shannon Gilroy, Executive Director of Advancement • [shannon.gilroy@brownell.edu](mailto:shannon.gilroy@brownell.edu) • 402.556.3772 ext. 1019





**In July of 2018 we told you about a generous \$100,000 gift made in honor of STEM programs at BT; fast forward, and we are pleased to report that every dollar of that gift has been put to thoughtful use! Students and teachers alike have spent the last semester exploring the benefits of this impactful gift through new opportunities and experiences.**

It is through the generosity of many that STEM programs at BT continue to set the standard for excellence in Omaha. To make a gift in honor of STEM education at BT visit [brownell.edu/give](http://brownell.edu/give).



### GOOGLE VIRTUAL REALITY FIELD TRIPS

“Third grade students recently used the virtual reality field trip technology to experience the cause of earthquakes. The guided simulation allowed them to travel in space and experience the difference between a marsquake, moonquake, and earthquake. The students loved being able to experience the information and not just read it from a book.”  
*- Karin Rohrig, third grade teacher*



### WIRELESS LAB SENSORS

“The wireless sensors make the science behind our labs much more interesting. Thankfully, Mrs. Harms is so enthusiastic and passionate - she’s always willing to answer my many questions that the labs prompt.”  
*- Josie Petrulis, '21*



### TOWER GARDENS

“Second grade students planted the seeds for the plants in the Tower Garden. Even though it is being utilized for the second grade curriculum, it is fun to share the produce with all students in kindergarten through fourth grade. They can walk right up, pluck off a leaf, and start eating. I never thought I would hear, ‘Can I go get more kale, Ms. Mac?’ but I do!”  
*- Heather McIntyre-Haas, science teacher*

“You can eat it right off the tower because no chemicals get on the plants. I love the bok choy!”  
*- Shaan Saxena, '29*







## 2019 GALA

On May 10, gala guests will be transported back to the 1960s as we celebrate the spirit of our community and how we are bonded by the love we have for Brownell Talbot. The 60s were a decade of change, and Brownell Talbot School was no exception. In 1963 BT admitted boys into Upper School for the first time and graduated its first coed class in 1967.

Under the leadership of co-chairs Chloe and Dan Firestone (parents to Pippa, '31) and Valerie and Casey Garrigan (parents to Liam, '25, Aiden, '27, and Declan, '30), the steering committee is working diligently to make this year's gala a night to remember.

The Firestone and Garrigan families are active in the BT community and classrooms and have served in numerous volunteer roles and leadership positions during their time at school.

This year's honorary chair is

Susan Dennis, an advocate for and loyal supporter of Brownell Talbot since her daughter, Alexandra Dennis-Renner, '10, enrolled as a preschooler in 1995. Since that time, Susan has served in various leadership positions including on the Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2013, as gala co-chair in 2004, and as a member of the 150th Celebration steering committee. Susan was also a recipient of the BT Triangle Award in 2013, which recognizes a parent, family member, or friend of Brownell Talbot for their years of commitment to and support of the school.

Susan is currently the president of Freeman Company. She is a member of Bellevue University's Board of Trustees as well as the Methodist Hospital Foundation's Board of Directors.

Visit [brownell.edu/gala](http://brownell.edu/gala) for more details as we look forward to celebrating 155 years of peace, love, and Brownell Talbot on the grooviest night in May!

### 2019 Steering Committee



#### Live Auction

Bindy Beavers, '87  
Annika George

#### Silent Auction

Danielle Brown  
Selina Ferrer  
Lori Howard

#### Exceptional Events

Deb Dodd  
Fatima Khan

#### Family Baskets

Fatima Basith  
Debbie Wood

#### Arrangements

Laura Crosby  
Decorations  
Casie Schlueter  
Patra Pakieser

#### Display

Natalia Atchley  
Juliette Lisco

#### Raffle

Suzanne Kotula  
Frank Kubat

#### Mailings/Publicity

Charlotte Irshad  
Lindy Levell

#### Sponsorships & Underwriting

Megan Belcher  
Niki Theophilus

#### Student Projects

Lisa Freifeld  
Advertising  
Christine Connolly

## Live Auction Preview

These great packages and more will be up for auction at gala! Learn more at [brownell.edu/gala](http://brownell.edu/gala)



A Night with Shawn Mendes



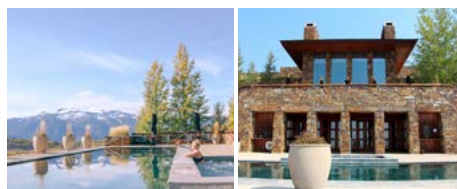
Tropical Island Getaway



"Turn Back Time" with Cher



Harry Potter on Broadway



Jackson Hole Retreat



Dismal River Club Golf Escape



# Meet the Brownell Talbot Board of Trustees



## A Note from Board of Trustee Chair Laura Crosby

On behalf of the Brownell Talbot Board of Trustees, I want to say thank you for your continued support of our school's mission to prepare students for success in college and in life. As we enter a new year, I invite you to engage with our school in any way that you can - it is our alumni, friends, and supporters who continue to make BT such a special community. If you have reflections or questions or would like to learn more about the Board of Trustees' work, you can visit [brownell.edu/trustees](http://brownell.edu/trustees) or email me at [trustees@brownell.edu](mailto:trustees@brownell.edu).



## 2018-2019 Executive Committee

Laura Crosby, chair

(left to right)

Dean Hollis, emeritus member

Chris Hedican, vice chair

Chip Vrana, interim treasurer

Sherrye Hutcherson, secretary



## 2018-2019 Committee Members

(left to right)

Stephen George

Bethany Graves, '86\*

Chip James II, '88

Deepak Khazanchi

John Kotouc

Rudy Kotula\*

Pirzada Sattar

Lori Scott

Niki Theophilus\*

Robert Wagner

\*denotes a trustee in their first term.



## New Trustees

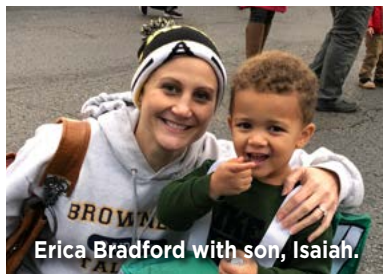
- **Bethany Graves, '86** - Bethany has been an active member of the BT community since her days as a student. Most recently she served as Booster Club president, and she and her husband, Todd, co-chaired the 2018 gala. Their two children Brett, '17, and Audrey, '18, are recent BT graduates.
- **Rudy Kotula** - Rudy is an infectious disease specialist at Methodist Physicians Clinic. Rudy and his wife, Suzanne, co-chaired the 2017 gala and are active participants in Booster Club and BTPA. Their daughter, Anna, is a senior at BT this year.
- **Niki Theophilus** - Niki is an attorney with extensive experience, having most recently served as the chief human resources officer at West Corporation. She and her husband, Joel, are current BT parents. Her daughter Maddy, '16, is a graduate, son, Sam, is a junior, and their daughter, Stella, is in first grade.

## Outgoing Trustees

Trustees Liz Mazzotta (parent to Drew, '07, and Rachel, '16) and Bill Dana (parent to Conner, '07, Carly, '09, and Chloe, '14) concluded their time on the Board in August. Former Board Chair Dean Hollis (parent to Megan, x'23 and Trent, x'20) has assumed an advisory role as an emeritus member of the Board. We remain grateful for their many years of service to our community and our students.



# CELEBRATING BT'S LEGACY FAMILIES



Erica Bradford with son, Isaiah.

## *A reflection on choosing BT for the next generation of Raiders by Erica (Aaron) Bradford, '97:*

There are so many compelling reasons to choose Brownell Talbot. We really did our homework when looking at schools for our daughter, Olivia. I toured several local schools (public and private) and talked to other parents. I went to several preview events to get a good look at each of them and get a feel. I left every single one of them thinking, 'She'd be fine here.' Having both taught and attended BT, I thought it was only fair to give it a good look (It definitely wasn't already decided.) After visiting with Director of Admissions Kim Schinzel and the Early Childhood teachers, I walked out with tears in my eyes. I called my husband and said, 'She HAS to go to Brownell Talbot.'

One of the things that struck me was the teachers' attention to the whole child. Anxiety and mental health concerns run rampant in our school-aged population, and BT was the only school to address this aspect of schooling. They really showcased how each student's emotional, academic, and social needs would be met and grown.

As an educator, I firmly believe that small class sizes are incredibly important. You simply

cannot beat the student to teacher ratio at BT. Another aspect that really set BT apart was the incredible number of STAR (Specialized Teachers and Resources) classes that are offered. In our local public school, they have taken art out of elementary school completely because of budget constraints. We were happy to see that art, music, PE, French, Spanish, library, and guidance are all part of the curriculum. The fact that PE also includes swimming is amazing. And to have a science specialist in kindergarten is simply unheard of! We knew that Olivia would thrive in such an environment.

I also knew that one of the many things that makes BT special is the community. The teachers are second to none. They care, work hard, and are passionate – both about their subject matter and about kids! Looking beyond kindergarten, the opportunities just continue to grow.

There wasn't one single reason why we chose BT, but any one of these reasons would have been enough. The fact that you can find all of this in one place is special. We want that for our children.



# LEGACY STUDENTS



**TOP ROW:** Amelia Bell, '25 (Belinda Beavers, '87, and Shelby Bell), Addison Hawkins, '27 (Kim, x'98, and Amy Hawkins), Olivia Bradford, '31 (Erica (Aaron), '97, and Steffon Bradford)

**SECOND ROW:** Riley Hawkins, '22 (Kim, x'98, and Amy Hawkins), Corbett Lanum, '26 (Nicole (Rossi), '98, and Wade Lanum)

**BOTTOM ROW:** Ella Anderson, '29 (Julie Adams Anderson, '89, and Tony Anderson), Ben Lanum, '31 (Nicole (Rossi), '98, and Wade Lanum)



**Jack Cohen, '23 (Mike, '87, and Karen Cohen), Dylan Scott, '23 (W. David, '81, and Lori Scott), Jonathan Massey, '23 (Peter, '81, and Michelle Massey), Nathan Brown, '23 (Chuck, x'95, and Danielle Brown)**



**Sonu Saxena, '27, Sai Saxena, '31, Shaan Saxena, '29, Lia Saxena, '33 (Shikhar, x'99, and Kristina Saxena)**



**Andrew Massey, '21 (Peter, '81, and Michelle Massey), Kaitlyn Scott, '21 (W. David, '81, and Lori Scott), Lillian Cohen, '19 (Mike, '87, and Karen Cohen), Charlie Cohen, '19 (Bob, '73, and Marla Cohen)**



**Victoria Molai, '33 (Annie Linberg, '04, and Nabil Molai)**



# ALUMNI ON CAMPUS



## FOOTBALL

**1** Lorenzo Rivera, '13 (kneeling in front), joined the Middle School football team as an assistant coach for the 2018-2019 season.

## COLLEGE SEND OFF

**2** Members of the Class of 2018 gathered for a College Send Off before heading off on the next step in their educational journey.

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

**3** W. David Scott, '81, with daughter Kaitlyn, '21, and Dylan, '23.

**4** Nicole (Rossi) Lanum, '98, and husband Wade Lanum, technology integration specialist, along with daughter Corbett, '26, and son Ben, '31, on the first day of the 2018-2019 school year.

## HOMECOMING TAILGATE

**5** Angie Vetter, learning and curriculum coordinator and head volleyball coach, was delighted to reconnect with Madison Scott, '18.

**6** Past parent Sid Gay, former history teacher and past parent Ron Scribner, Curt Knudsen, '88, and Robert Adams, '88.

**7** Olivia Powers, '16, caught up with Director of College Counseling and Guidance Stacey Evert.





## SENIOR CHAPEL

**8** Bob Cohen, '73, and son, Charlie, '19, paused for a picture before the annual Senior Chapel.

## SWIM VOLUNTEER

**9** Chip Greene, '74, recently volunteered as a timer at a BT swim meet. Greene is pictured with BT faculty members and parents, Stacey Evert, director of college counseling and guidance, and Karen Ping, kindergarten teacher.

## CAMPUS VISITORS

**10** Tommie Adams, '84, stopped by campus to enjoy lunch with niece, Ella Anderson, '29.

**11** Jesse Hutmaker, '89, came for a tour while in town visiting family and friends.

**12** A group of young alumni participated in an Alumni Insight Panel sharing their perspective on the college transition process with our Upper School students.

## HARDWOOD HUSTLE

**13** Pictured are the alumni in attendance at the Hardwood Hustle on November 21.

**14** Haley Mathews, '12, Chloe Dana, '14, and Hannah Emery, '14, were ready to take the court.

**15** Zach Ehresman, '12, Geoff Sproat, '93, Tyler Ehresman, '12, and Arlie Myers, '14.

**16** Ben Porter, '18, Jacob Clark, '19, and John Vovk, '18.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Tanzi Propst, Class of 2012

I live in Park City, Utah, where I run the image department of *The Park Record*, Park City's bi-weekly newspaper. My job consists of taking pictures at various events throughout town like the Olympic Trials, annual Tour of Utah bike race, World Cup bobsled, luge and skeleton, Park City's annual hot air balloon festival, high school sports from football to lacrosse to water polo and beyond, as well as the Sundance Film Festival.

### What BT teacher had the biggest impact on you?

Mrs. Melilli's first year at BT was when I was in first grade. She always made class a little more interesting with fun snacks and comfy, quiet places for reading. Our teacher-student relationship continued throughout the years and I'm proud to call her a friend. I also appreciated that Ms. Manhart never yelled at me when I would eat all the frosting instead of using it on the gingerbread houses during our Christmas activity. She always welcomed our curiosity. We maintained a great friendship and she always found ways to support me throughout my years at BT and after graduation.

### Favorite spot on BT's campus?

I always enjoyed getting to hide in the back of the art room and work on my pottery. I would dash across the hall to hang out in the music room where there was always something fun going on.

### What's on your bucket list?

Photograph the Olympics; run a half-marathon, hopefully on my way to completing the Ironman in Hawaii, following the footsteps of my dad; get a dog;

learn to cross-country ski; and travel more - hopefully back to Australia.

### What do you miss about Omaha?

Mostly, I miss being able to spend holidays at home with my family. It's a privilege that I have missed out on for three years now due to job requirements. I also miss my dogs, but I get to see them on FaceTime occasionally, and that's always special.

### What advice would you give to current BT students?

It's important to remain open to new ideas and to new people as you continue on in life.

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

BT gave me the opportunity to try a wide range of activities. Whether it was cross country, cheerleading, theatre, choir, or track, I was welcomed onto these teams without fear of being excluded. I know that at a larger school, I may not have been good enough to actually make a team, but I was given opportunities at BT to try these out without fear of rejection. That really helped me later to not be scared of trying new things.

### What do you do for fun? How do you de-stress?

When I'm not working, I do my best to get outside and enjoy what nature and the mountains have to offer. In the summer, that means hiking, biking, running, and setting up my hammock next to a quiet lake near a mountaintop to read a book. In the winter, I'm out skiing and snowshoeing, taking landscape pictures of the fluffy white stuff or baking cookies and holiday treats for friends.





# ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

## IN MEMORIAM

### ALUMNI

**Romain (Gibson) Morgan, '50** *D. May 9, 2017*

**Lucia (Kountze Millard) Eisenlauer, '46**  
*D. May 2018*

**Courtney (Campbell) Sands, '50** *D. June 7, 2018*

**Mary (Shirley) Landen, '47** Survived by children, Shirley (Landen) Huerter, x'74; CL Landen, III, x'75; Jim Landen, x'78; James Landen, Jr., '06; Wilson Landen, '08; and Charlie Landen, x'12. Mrs. Landen's mother, Mary (Fuller) Shirley was a member of the class of 1918 and her sister, Sally (Shirley) Parks was class of 1943. *D. July 7, 2018*

**W. Mark Ashford, '70**

Survived by brothers Carl Ashford, '75, and Brad Ashford, x'67 *D. August 1, 2018*

**Stanley M. Truhlsen, Jr., x'69** *D. November 19, 2018*

### FRIENDS

**Alison "Ali" Slosburg** Survived by mother Martha (Gorelick) Slosburg, '81 *D. June 28, 2018*

**Evan Olson** Survived by daughter Sarah (Gibson) Thailing, x'84 *D. July 3, 2018*

**Allen Amandus** Survived by son Matthew Amandus, '94 *D. July 7, 2018*

**John Kaplan** Trustee 1973-1976 Survived by son John Kaplan, Jr., x'79 *D. August 6, 2018*

**Joel Babcock** Survived by wife, Virginia (Cooper) Babcock, '49 *D. October 16, 2018*

**Tom Macdissi** Survived by wife Kirsten Macdissi, retired English teacher, and nephew Tony McGowan, director of design and branding *D. November 10, 2018*

**Wing "Wayne" Quon** Survived by daughter Trisha, x'10, and son, Evan, x'09 *D. November 18, 2018*

**John B. Davis** Survived by daughter Dana (Davis) Miskell, '68; sister Petie (Davis) Hilsinger, '47; daughter-in-law Kim (Skutt) Davis, '73; grandson J.B. Davis, '13; and granddaughter Laura Davis, x'14. Dr. Davis' mother, Olga (Metz) Davis attended BT as a member of the class of 1917. *D. November 26, 2018*

**Jacob "Jake" Joppa** Survived by daughter Carolyn Conrath, retired French teacher and current Upper School Quiz Bowl coach *D. November 30, 2018*

### JOE LABAREE

Labaree served as Headmaster at Brownell Talbot from 1971 to 1976. Prior to his time at BT, he served at Graland Country Day School in Denver, Colorado from 1959 to 1971. At Graland he served as a fifth grade teacher, seventh grade math teacher, Head of Middle School, and Head of Upper School.

Retired English teacher Jackie Byers shared that "he was a good man, intelligent, a capable leader, with a subtle sense of humor, one who valued his colleagues and understood how to engage students in learning. He had a warm, affable personality." Retired Headmaster Dianne Desler expressed similar sentiments sharing "Mr. Labaree was a kind, compassionate leader who loved Brownell Talbot. He truly cared for his students and teachers."

*D. October 19, 2018*

## NEWS

**Ron Scribner**, former BT history teacher, coach, and parent to **T.J. Scribner, '92**, and **Molly Scribner, '96**, proudly reports granddaughter, Addi Scribner (T.J.'s daughter) has signed a letter of intent to play ice hockey for The Ohio State University.

**Jen (Smith), '01**, and **Nick Thielen, '01**, welcomed daughter Claire Evelyn Thielen on May 30, 2018. She joins big sisters Audrey and Julia.

**Shivani Sharma, '04**, and husband Chris Pomerleau welcomed daughter Sanaya Sharma Pomerleau.

**Joel Passer, '05**, and wife Sonia welcomed daughter Naomi Eve Passer on May 19, 2018.

**2008 Reunion** - members of the Class of 2008 recently gathered for their 10-year reunion.



**Kallie Larsen, '08**, shared that she is currently working on producing original digital and streaming content at Elizabeth Banks' comedy company, WhoHaha. She produces digital for Busy Philipps' new late night talk show, Busy Tonight, airing on E!

**Leigh Gustafson, '12**, received a promotion to Account Manager at JLT Specialty. JLT is a commercial insurance broker in Denver, Colorado. A fun side note: Gustafson works with **Billy Kroupa, '99**, and his wife.

**Linda Liu, '13**, is starting in a management trainee role at McMaster-Carr, an industrial supply company based in a suburb near Chicago. Her job will be internal consulting at first; completing various projects in different departments. It will undoubtedly be a very different experience from this past year in which she taught in Xinjiang, China.

**Wellesley Michael, '14**, was featured in a People.com article titled *5 Lessons Beauty Pageants Have Taught Me About Life*. Michael competed in the Miss Nebraska USA competition at The Rose Theater January 5 and 6, 2019. (Results not known at time of publication.)

**Guanying "Candy" Qu, '14**, started a new position as a tax and advisory associate at PwC in the Boston area.

**Robert Goetschkes, '15**, was accepted into pilot training for the United States Air Force. Goetschkes will complete his Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering in late May.



**Charlotte Hedican, '15**, was selected to be the student speaker at Loyola University Chicago School of Communications December Graduation Brunch 2018.

**Tenley Propst, '15**, will be pursuing her Master of Science in Sustainable Energy Engineering at the Iceland School of Energy at Reykjavik University beginning July 2019. Propst shared that ever since she traveled to Iceland with The Green Program her freshman year in college, she knew she wanted to add sustainability to her environmental engineering major at Iowa State.

**Lauren Zimmerman, '15**, is working as a program associate in grants and fundraising for Tri-Faith Initiative. Zimmerman shared "I've been interested in Tri-Faith for a few years, [BT teacher] Mark Smith's World Religions class put it on my radar and sparked my interest in the organization."

**Krishn Rapoor, '16**, and **Harrison Runnels, '16**, were included on the Midwest Conference Academic All-Conference football team for the 2017-2018 academic year. Rapoor and Runnels are juniors at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota.



**Peter Rice, '18**, enjoyed a visit from **Brandon Harrell, '19**, where Rice is a freshman at South Dakota State. Harrell was on campus exploring his college options.

**LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!** The Alumni News and Notes section of *Fireside* celebrates your recent accomplishments. Share information about births, weddings, anniversaries, career moves, retirements, and life-changing experiences! We publish alumni submissions and any other news we receive from friends, employers, and media sources. Update us at [brownell.edu/hello](http://brownell.edu/hello).



# A Page in Time

In the 1960s and 1970s, Brownell had limited local teams to compete against in athletic competitions, in particular, football, field hockey, and basketball. The teams played other private schools including Wichita Collegiate in Wichita, Kansas; Graland Country Day School and Kent Denver School, both in Denver, Colorado; and Barstow School in Kansas City, Missouri.

Students would stay in the homes of students with whom they competed against. The schools would put together a full weekend of activities: in addition to the athletic competitions, students enjoyed a joint team dinner, an informal dance, a choral performance, and even an exhibition chess match!

Brownell-Talbot School  
Program for Migration Week-end to Wichita Collegiate

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

Depart Omaha	6:30 a.m.
Arrive Wichita	1:00 p.m.
Choral Group	2:00 p.m.
Reserve Basketball Game	7:00 p.m.
Varsity Basketball Game	8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Chess Match	9:00 a.m.
Reserve Basketball Game	11:00 a.m.
Varsity Basketball Game	12:30 p.m.
Depart Wichita	2:30 p.m.
Arrive Omaha	9:30 p.m.
Pick up students at Brownell-Talbot	

Students will be staying in homes of students attending Wichita Collegiate.

The telephone number at Wichita Collegiate is: Area code 316  
684.0263

BROWNELL-TALBOT SCHOOL  
322 North Happy Hollow Boulevard  
Omaha, Nebraska

January 26, 1966

Dear Brownell-Talbot Parents:

Wichita Collegiate will be here Friday and Saturday for two basketball games which may lead to a continuing and enjoyable athletic rivalry between the two independent schools. Tentative plans have already been made to entertain the Collegiate football team here in the fall, and our Talbot boys will be in Wichita for a second basketball series next winter. We hope you will review the plans for the weekend, share with us the knowledge that this will be an entertaining athletic and social experience for both schools, and meet us in Roberts Gym Friday and Saturday to help us initiate a new and friendly rivalry.

Weekend Schedule

Friday, January 28

4:00 p.m.	Talbot vs Collegiate, Junior Varsity
5:00 p.m.	Talbot vs Collegiate, Varsity
7:00 p.m.	Team Dinner, Worthington Hall Dining Room (Coaches and boys of both teams)
8:00 p.m.	Visiting boys and coaches to return to homes of Talbot boys who have volunteered to act as hosts.
9:00 p.m.	To 11:00 p.m. Informal Dance, Grades 9-12, Faculty Lounge The Upper Council will sponsor a dance for all Brownell-Talbot upper school boys and girls to entertain the Varsity boys from Collegiate

Saturday, January 29

10:30 a.m.	Doors open for Saturday games
11:00 a.m.	Talbot vs Collegiate, Junior Varsity, Roberts Gym
12:00 noon	Talbot vs Collegiate, Varsity, Roberts Gym
2:00 p.m.	Wichita Collegiate returns (on shields) to Wichita

We hope the Talbot-Collegiate athletic rivalry can be broadened to the development of a fine and lasting relationship between boys and girls of both independent schools. The weekend schedule of entertaining activities and total participation by our boys, girls, and parents will help us extend a hearty welcome to Wichita Collegiate.

Sincerely,

*Bud Larsen*

Norman (Bud) Larsen  
Head Physical Education

If you are interested in helping the alumni office identify and organize photographs or assist with other archive projects, please contact Renae Mackender at [renae.mackender@brownell.edu](mailto:renae.mackender@brownell.edu) or 402.556.3772 ext 1015.



# 155 YEARS

*of generosity*



For 155 years, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends have helped Brownell Talbot continue its rich tradition of preparing students for college and life.

Make your gift to The BT Fund today to support the next generation of Raiders!

[brownell.edu/btfund](http://brownell.edu/btfund)





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Omaha, NE 68132

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**FEB 2** TRIVIA NIGHT

**FEB 7** RALLY FOR THE ARTS

**APR 4-7** UPPER SCHOOL PLAY: *WHIRLIGIG*

**MAY 10** GALA: PEACE, LOVE, AND BT

**MAY 25** COMMENCEMENT



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@BTraiders



@brownelltalbotschool