



Fireside

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF BROWNELL TALBOT SCHOOL

GOING PLACES

Division level summer trips, here and abroad

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Find out where the Class of 2019 is headed

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Notes from Worthington Hall

The 2018-2019 school year was marked with so many celebratory occasions that reinforced why this is an incredible time to be a member of the Brownell Talbot family.

There were countless celebrations of community including BT's first Trunk or Treat, a return of the increasingly competitive and spirited Trivia Night, the Nebraska Mission of Mercy free dental clinic (pg. 11), and this year's Peace, Love, and BT gala (pg. 13), where the generosity of our community propelled us to raise significant funds for scholarships and programming.

In addition to the special moments we had to connect with one another and build community, the real stars of the year were our students.

From our youngest learners to our graduating seniors, BT students continued to set the bar for achievements both in and out of the classroom. Supported by our exceptional team of faculty and staff, students competed on local and national stages (this issue is full of their compelling stories!). To say the year was packed with excitement for our students is an understatement!

But for me personally, perhaps the greatest celebration took place outside of the classroom. The year marked the culmination of the school's year-long work on Brownell Talbot's next strategic plan. With involvement and input from alumni, parents, faculty and staff, the Board of Trustees, and friends of the school, we have developed a dynamic plan that will act as the guiding document for the school over the next five years.

The strategic plan is exciting. It celebrates our uniqueness as an independent school. It puts learners at the heart of everything we do. And it pushes us to imagine all of the ways our students will impact their local communities and the global world. We are writing the next chapter in the Brownell Talbot story, and I cannot wait to share more with you in the fall!

Kristi N. Gibbs

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

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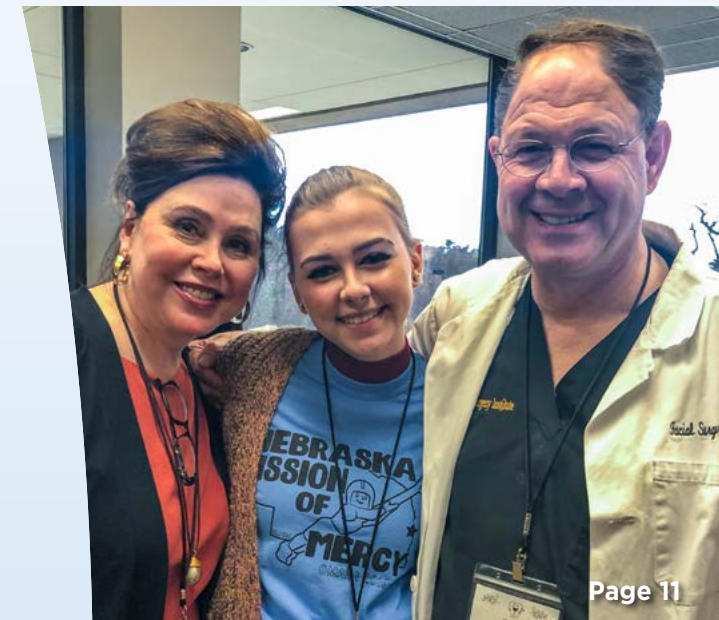
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WHAT'S HAPPENING — ON CAMPUS? —



1. Upper School Students Travel to Italy and Greece

When the school year ended, a group of Upper School students joined Latin teacher Chris Palo, math teacher Carrie Rise, third grade teacher Natalie Simms, and history teacher Mark Smith on a cultural immersion trip to Italy and Greece!

2. Sixth Grader Competes at Scripps National Spelling Bee

Siri Doddapaneni, '25, won the Douglas County Spelling Bee in February, securing her spot at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in National Harbor, Maryland. Doddapaneni ultimately tied for 51st in the competition.

3. Acadec Makes It to State

Brownell Talbot is the only school to have qualified for the State final every year since the event began more than 30 years ago!

4. BT Launches Early Years Program for 2019-2020 School Year

BT's preschool and junior kindergarten grades have been reimagined into a new program called Early Years (see our ad on page 22), in which students who are ages 3-4 when the school year begins will be divided evenly into classrooms with similarly aged peers. This change allows BT to extend the enrollment age to children who are 3 years old by October 31. Learn more about the program by visiting brownell.edu/early-years.

5. Kotula, '19, Gives Scholarship Grant to BT

This spring Anna Kotula, '19, received a \$2,500 scholarship from the AXA Foundation. Part of the scholarship award is a \$1,000 grant given to the student's school. Anna chose to have the grant designated for the Kotula Family Nature Classroom.

6. Mumgaard, '23, Awarded Veylupek Ripple for Change Scholarship

In May Stella Mumgaard, '23, was awarded the Veylupek Ripple for Change Scholarship. Kelly Crowell, x'96, and CEO Allister Ramrattan of My Little Patient presented Mumgaard with the scholarship, which is named in honor of the late Jill Veylupek, '96, and provides the recipient with the required Upper School laptop and associated equipment.

7. Kennamthiang, '19, Named Presidential Scholar

Sukanya Kennamthiang, '19, was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar, one of only 161 seniors across the United States to receive the honor this year. As part of the recognition, Kennamthiang had the opportunity to nominate a BT teacher to be recognized by the program. Her candidate, English and journalism teacher Darin Larsen, was named a 2019 most influential teacher in May by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

8. Middle School Explores the Grand Canyon

Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders visited the Grand Canyon with science teacher Rob Schindler during this summer's annual Middle School national parks trip.

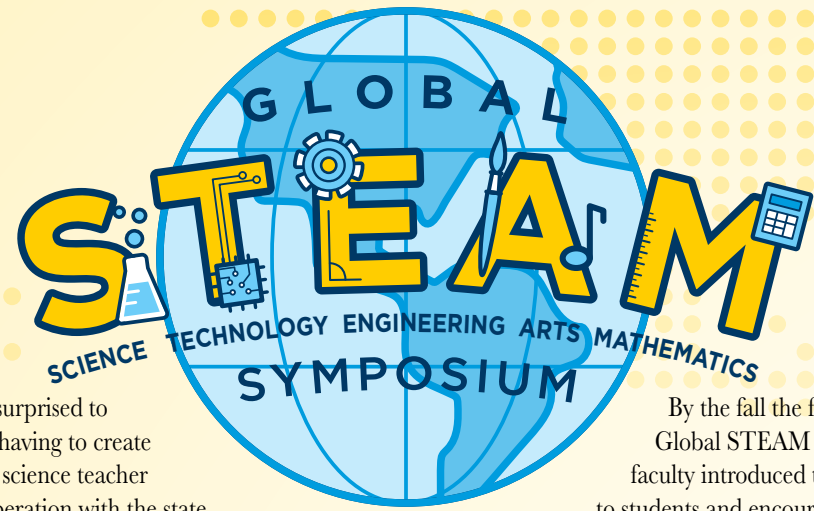
9. Lower School Students "Jump into Space"

Lower School students and families experimented with hands-on activities and challenges to learn more about the solar system at BT's first STEAM Night.

10. Rice, '19, Commits to D-1 Track Team

Eliza Rice, '19, has committed to run track at the University of New Mexico in the fall. Read more about Rice in our feature on BT's three-sport athletes on page 8.

LAUNCHING BT'S



One probably wouldn't be too surprised to hear an eighth grader bemoan having to create a science fair project, but when science teacher Barb Olsen expressed her exasperation with the state of the fair last spring, faculty and administrators took note.

Olsen, a seasoned science education professional who has been a driving force behind BT's annual science fair since she came to BT in 2011 and who spent many years as a judge for Omaha's Metropolitan Science and Engineering Fair, had a strong sense that something needed to change for the seventh and eighth grade students.

"For the older kids, it was the third or fourth time they were participating in the fair. The projects were stale, and it didn't feel like much learning was going on," said Olsen.

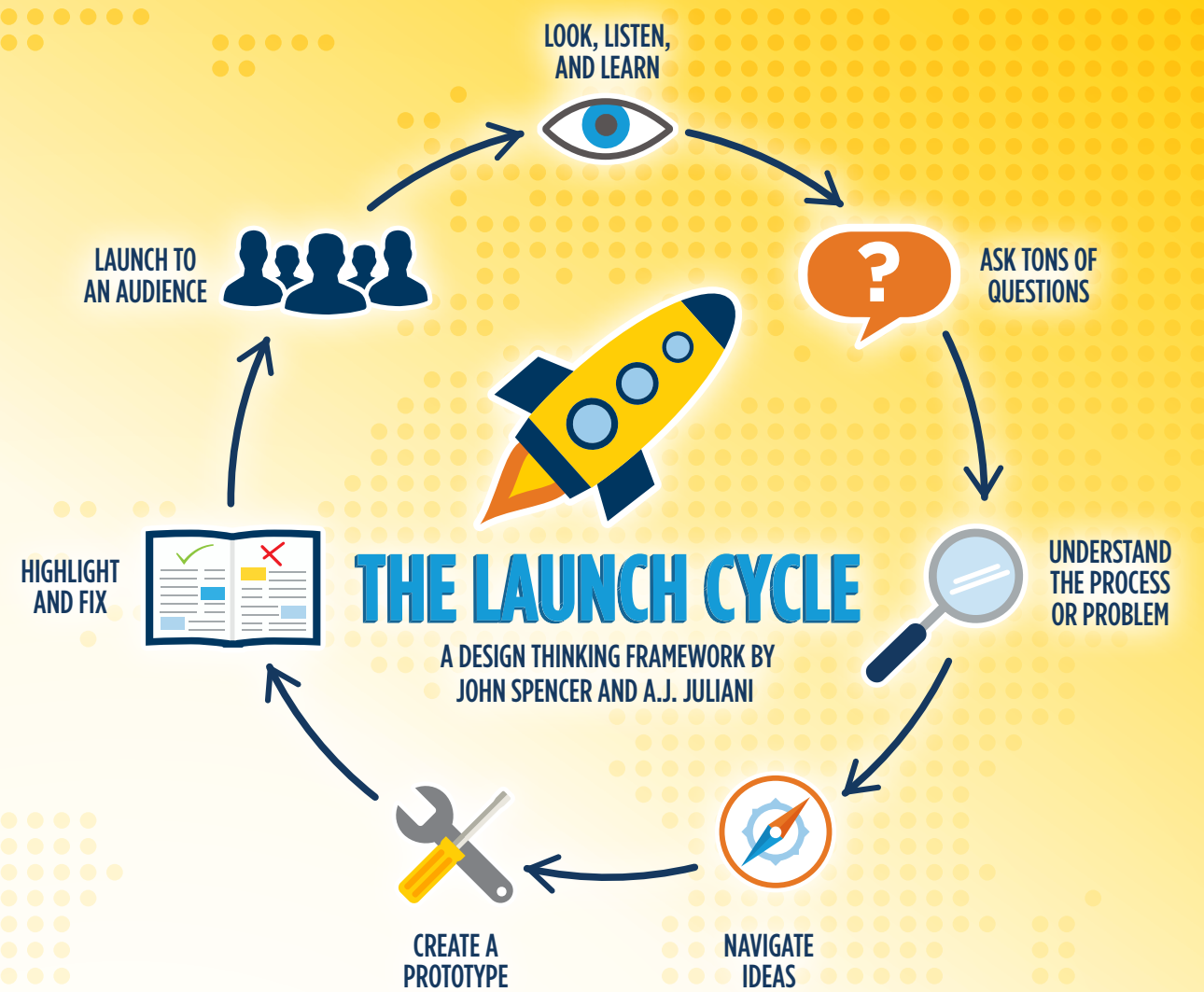
Olsen and learning and curriculum coordinator Angie Vetter were challenged to find a new way to build upon the successes the students experienced in participating in the science fair as fifth and sixth graders. Olsen and Vetter spent the next several months researching rubrics and models that could accomplish the following tasks: reengage the students, have them employ real-world research methods, and provide an opportunity for them to realize how they can make a positive impact on their community or even the world.

By the fall the framework for BT's first-ever Global STEAM Symposium was in place. The faculty introduced the concept of the symposium to students and encouraged them to identify a problem they were personally facing or had witnessed and think about it in a global context. The students were then asked to brainstorm ways in which they could help to solve the problem.

The students spent a significant amount of time second semester following the LAUNCH cycle of the design thinking process as described by John Spencer, creator of LAUNCH:

It begins with the premise of tapping into student curiosity and allowing them to create, test, and recreate until they eventually ship what they made to a real audience (sometimes global but often local). Design thinking isn't a subject or a topic or a class. It's more a way of solving problems that encourages risk-taking and creativity.

As a function of the Navigate phase of the project, students documented everything in journals. They were asked to include their plans, trials, failures, steps they took, the people they talked to and interviewed, feedback from peers and mentors, what they discovered in their research, reflections, and bibliography in order to bolster their understanding of the issue and have a record of their research.



One of the most unique features of the Global STEAM Symposium was the opportunity it created to invite school employees from all departments to mentor a student. Faculty and staff reviewed the proposed topics, identified a project that they had either a professional or personal interest in, and then met periodically with the student to discuss project criteria, provide fresh perspectives, rehearse presentations, and more.

"The office staff was excited to be included in classroom learning and to get such direct insight into the creativity and intelligence of our students," said Director of Constituent Relations Renae Mackender, who paired with Clare Schinzel, '24, on her efforts to create a collapsible metal straw to reduce plastic waste in landfills.

"We knew the mentor relationship would be important, but we had no idea just how big of a motivator it would be," Vetter said.

By all accounts, the symposium was a success. In addition to the hands-on experience with a research process that they most likely will use in college and the real world, the personal development the students demonstrated was inspiring.

"I couldn't put a value on the learning and growth these kids experienced. I can see it. I know others can too," Olsen said.

One shining example of this is Elizabeth Goebel, '23. Goebel, whose mother works at Omaha's Children's Hospital, had witnessed the lack of recycling and an overuse of styrofoam on the hospital's part. Recycling bins were few and far between and the ones that were there were managed by individual employees who took it upon themselves to collect and turn in recyclables.

Unbeknownst to Goebel, the hospital's CEO had been contemplating the state of recycling, or lack thereof, and, when presented with a request by Goebel to meet, he accepted. Goebel, who admitted to being afraid of talking to the CEO, overcame her fears and was able to have a one-on-one with him to discuss the issue.

"I feel like I really had an impact. He said he had been talking about the issue with his board before our meeting, and that our discussion further influenced his desire to address the problem," Goebel said.

The hospital is currently working to replace styrofoam cups with a more eco-friendly alternative.

"I was amazed and proud that so many students took the initiative to call strangers, dial 800 numbers, and just try to engage professionals in their projects," Olsen said.

Vetter added, "the best part is that, with this project, any kid could be successful. They just had to find what they were passionate about."

The culminating project symposium was held on May 1, 2019, in Scott Gymnasium. Guests walked among the snake of project tables to hear students talk about the trials, tribulations, and successes of their projects while faint but upbeat music set an energetic tone for the event. Although it was the official end to their research, Olsen anticipates many will continue the work they started in some capacity. Goebel intends to stay updated on the hospital's progress through her mom.

"It will be really cool to see if what I did helped change a huge organization."

GET IN THE GAME!

BT'S ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Athletics and activities at Brownell Talbot are an important component of the mission of the school. Students have the opportunity to be involved and compete at the highest level in a variety of activities during their time at BT. This past school year, over 94% of Upper School students participated in at least one activity and 78% participated in at least two. The value of being able to join teams and experience so many different athletics and activities is not lost on BT's students. Anna Kotula, '19, elaborates:

“BT is a special place where you can discover so much about yourself by doing all the things you enjoy both academically and athletically. At most schools students have to select one thing of interest their freshman year and call it their passion for the rest of high school. At BT, students have the flexibility to try various sports or clubs until they find something they truly enjoy to the point of wanting to continue to develop their skills further. I personally found a great balance at BT of academics and athletics because practices were structured around school, and coaches always

prioritized our studies over an athletic commitment. As I have gotten older, my stress level has risen because of competing priorities, but the school has done an amazing job teaching me time management. My teachers and coaches have taught me how to best set myself up for success, how to navigate my interests, set priorities, and define my limits. I'm thankful for the support the school has given me as a student and an athlete, and I feel prepared to take on whatever college throws at me because of the lessons I have learned at BT!”



FRESHMEN

IAN JENKINS

TENNIS • BASKETBALL • GOLF

BRYCE ROBINSON

GOLF • BASKETBALL • TRACK

SOPHOMORES

JAKE GIBBS

FOOTBALL • BASKETBALL • TRACK

THALIA LAWSON-BETUM

VOLLEYBALL • BASKETBALL • TRACK

TOMMY PUGSLEY

FOOTBALL • BASKETBALL • TRACK

DANNY STEIN

TENNIS • BASKETBALL • BASEBALL

JUNIORS

SAM BOCK

FOOTBALL • BASKETBALL • TRACK

CECAN PORTER

GOLF • BASKETBALL • TENNIS

CHARLEY PUGSLEY

FOOTBALL • BASKETBALL • TRACK

EMALIE WIGHTMAN

GOLF • BASKETBALL • TRACK

RASHAAN YAPP

FOOTBALL • BASKETBALL • GOLF



JACOB CLARK, '19

FOOTBALL • BASKETBALL • SOCCER

What is the most impactful thing a coach has taught you?

Everyone in life wants something, but only the people who work for it will appreciate it.

Why should underclassmen join BT sports?

Learning doesn't just happen in the classroom. Playing sports teaches you valuable life skills like how to work hard and compete.

What do you want your legacy at BT to be?

I would like to be remembered as the kid who always worked hard, cared about winning, and pushed those around him to the same level.

Where are you headed in the fall?

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities



ANNA KOTULA, '19

CHEERLEADING • VOLLEYBALL • SWIMMING • TENNIS

What is the most impactful thing a coach has taught you?

Always knowing that you're never fully at your best. You can always improve and strive for excellence.

Why did you get involved in sports at BT?

Originally for the same reason most people do, to say I did it and be able to put it on my college application. But that's not why I kept doing it. I stayed because of the bonds that I made with my teammates and the love I developed for each sport.

How do you hope to be remembered?

I hope that people remember me as being kind. No matter who I'm with or what team I'm on, I try to be accepting of everybody and help them grow as a person.

Where are you headed in the fall?

Creighton University



CHARLIE COHEN, '19

FOOTBALL • BASKETBALL • SOCCER

What is your favorite part about competing?

What makes playing worthwhile is getting a good team win where everyone is involved.

Do you have a post-win ritual?

And there's nothing like coming home after a win and eating a nice roasted chicken.

Any advice for underclassmen?

Don't give up on yourself. I barely played my freshman year, but I kept working at it. Show that you can be tough, show you can be smarter than your opponent, and work hard, even when no one else is!

Where are you headed in the fall?

I'm taking a gap year in Israel as part of the KIVUNIM International Academic Program.



ELIZA RICE, '19

VOLLEYBALL • BASKETBALL • TRACK

What sets apart BT athletics from club or other schools?

Similar to BT academics, the small number of students out for sports provides for a more personalized experience, and you can explore all your interests without having to worry about making the team.

What challenges have you had to overcome?

Being a student-athlete is overwhelming at times. You're mentally and physically exhausted, and the last thing you want to do is schoolwork at 11:00 pm after a meet, but pushing through teaches you mental toughness, perseverance, and dedication.

What do you think you'd be missing if you hadn't done BT sports?

I didn't participate in any sports at all before I came to BT in fifth grade. If I hadn't gone out for every sport that first year, I wouldn't have found some of my greatest passions in life.

Where are you headed in the fall?

To the University of New Mexico to run track!

Thank you to the following contributing writers for their work on this article: Cami Kotouc, '22, Anna Kotula, '19, and Grayson Shirey, '21.

HARD WORK AND COURAGE

the Making of State Speech Champions



Competition speech is not for the faint-hearted. If you can get past the long hours required to perfect your delivery and timing; the memorization of material; the constant tweaking of a performance or argument that you thought you had looked at from every angle possible, you still have to survive the judges.

Regardless of the event, one thing has remained consistent through decades of speech competition: in just their suits - without the support of props, sets, and other actors - the performers sustain the most brutal of criticisms as their talents are laid bare and judged, without the softness of participation awards or superfluous praise.

BT's speech coaches Chris Hamel and Mike Recker recognize this as the toughest lesson students have to learn about speech. The judgment can seem personal and harsh, and the feedback is rarely positive. To be great, competitors must absorb and learn from the criticism without allowing it to betray their confidence in themselves as performers.

If trophies are the markers of having learned this lesson well, then BT is a model student, having

earned District and State championship titles this year. The two victories sit atop a long legacy of winning for the Yakking Raiders speech team. They have been State champions or runners up for more than 10 years in a row and District champions 14 of the past 15 years. Similarly, BT's Middle School speech team has rarely lost a meet in the past 15 years.

But Surya Buddharaju, '19, is quick to point out that for him, and for many of his teammates, the real victory is not the medals.

"We have learned to choose material that speaks to us, that we know will create unique and honest performances. It has become a way for us to express ourselves and discover our identities," said Buddharaju.

Prioritizing personal growth and expression above winning may actually be the recipe to the Yakking Raider's continued success.

"The students have taken ownership of their performances and elevated the activity to art," said Hamel. "Knowing it could be torn apart by judges, it takes a lot of courage to make it so personal."

Yakking Raiders Compete at National Tournament

Three members of BT's speech team competed at the National Speech and Debate Association national championship tournament this June in Dallas, TX. Congratulations to:

- Surya Buddharaju, '19, was a top 12 finisher in Program of Oral Interpretation
- Brianna Liu, '20, placed in the top 60 in Informative Speaking
- Janie Xu, '20, placed in the top 80 in International Extemporaneous Speaking

GIVING SPOTLIGHT: Grandparents Make All the Difference

Grandparents Make All the Difference

Brownell Talbot grandparents have played a vital role in the vibrancy and success of the school since its founding. From faithfully attending grandchildren's milestone moments to supporting the school with gifts of time to attending gala every May - the relationships BT grandparents have with the school are treasured, long lasting, and add to the familial fabric of our community.

Grandparents + The BT Fund

The 2018-2019 BT Fund was just one of the areas of the school that was positively impacted by grandparent's strong commitment. This year's BT Fund saw both grandparent participation and giving double as compared to last year. Grandparents were invited to support the school with tax-deductible gifts of any size and the response was phenomenal. With that invitation, grandparents enjoyed the return of the beloved tradition of receiving a copy of their grandchild's school photo to proudly display. This incredible increase in participation and giving made all the difference in funding critical operational needs at the school. If you'd like to make a gift to support BT students you can do so at brownell.edu/give. Thank you to all the grandparents who made BT a priority in their charitable giving!

Ways to Get Involved at BT

Are you a grandparent or do you know a grandparent who is interested in staying informed and getting involved at BT? Never miss a beat! Grandparent contact information can be updated or submitted at brownell.edu/hello.

Providing grandparent contact information will help ensure they receive BT's bi-annual Fireside magazine and invitations to other campus events. Here are other ways for grandparents to stay informed and get involved:

- Follow us on Facebook! Search and like "Brownell Talbot School" and "Brownell Talbot School Alumni."
- Attend Lower School Grandparents and Special Friends Day on Friday, October 18, 2019.
- Volunteer in your Lower School grandchild's classroom - read a story or join your grandchild's class during their daily mindfulness exercises.
- Join your grandchild in any grade for lunch in Worthington Dining Hall any day! Just check in at the main office.





MISSION OF MERCY

On March 29 and 30, Brownell Talbot was the location of the 10th annual Nebraska Mission of Mercy event. Mission of Mercy, which was sponsored and organized this year by Dr. Bruce Kuhn, father of Geoff, '12, Natalie, '15, and Emma Kuhn, '19, provides free dental care to the uninsured and the under-insured. This year's event served approximately 1,000 patients with the help of roughly 800 volunteers. It was a vivid demonstration of BT living its mission, with the entire community coming together to make the event a success.

Almost every faculty and staff member signed up for at least one volunteer shift. Upper School students were asked to participate in either

assisting with patient care or clean-up. Parents, alumni, and friends of the school were also on hand to support the effort. Volunteers did everything from escorting patients to extracting teeth. There were also opportunities in the days leading up to Mission of Mercy for the rest of the student body to contribute by filling bags with toothpaste, toothbrushes, and floss and creating get well cards for patients. Ultimately, the event provided over 2 million dollars of free dental care!

Check out our time-lapse of the patient treatment area at brownell.edu/NMOM. For more information about NMOM, visit nebraskamissionofmercy.com



Upper School students assisted with patient care.



Faculty and staff arrived at 4:00 am to help out.



Middle School students filled bags with after-care supplies for patients.



"Being able to provide dental healthcare and preventive dental screenings at BT was, for a lack of a better word, awesome. I remember having lunch in Lower School gym in kindergarten and running the lines during basketball practice. To be there, 20 years later, and see it transformed into a dental triage and be able to work with dentists in my field of study was very surreal. It was amazing to see so many BT faculty members, staff, and students also volunteer their time to make Mission of Mercy such a successful event!"

- Saif Shah, '12

LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT SAIF IS UP TO IN THIS ISSUE'S ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 19!



2019 GALA

On Friday, May 10, Brownell Talbot celebrated everything that is groovy about the school at this year's gala, Peace, Love, and BT. The evening was a reflection of the love so many have for BT and the generous spirit of the community. Peace, Love, and BT raised \$750,000 for scholarships, academic, athletic, and fine arts programs, and professional development.

As guests arrived, they were greeted by the sounds of Pirate Radio, BT's a capella group, and Raider Blues jazz combo. New this year, guests were then guided into the gala tent to take advantage of the last few hours of the Silent Auction and a festive cocktail hour. The evening's 60s theme was fully embraced by not only the Gala Steering Committee but by guests arriving in everything from bell bottom jeans to Mad Men suits to beehives.

One feature of the Silent Auction that was not to be missed: faculty and staff-hosted experiences that included a karaoke party, cookie decorating lessons, bedtime stories, a trip to the Wildlife Safari, and more. Crafted and sponsored by the faculty and staff, students and parents bid for one-of-a-kind experiences with their favorite educators.



The evening's dinner, program, and Live Auction took place in Scott Gymnasium, where dreamy peace signs and hearts floated above tables saturated in purple, pink, and blue hues adorned with white flowers and tie-dyed roses. In what was the evening's most surreal moment, Music Department Chair J.R. Gould directed an instrumental rendition of *Love Is All You Need*, performed by faculty, staff, and students who made surprise appearances playing their instruments.

Honorary Chair Susan Dennis

Susan Dennis served as this year's Honorary Chair. Dennis has worn many hats at BT: parent to Alexandra Dennis-Renner, '10, trustee, gala co-chair, and 150th Celebration committee member to name a few. Dennis is currently the President of Freeman Company and a member of Bellevue University's Board of Trustees as well as the Methodist Hospital Foundation's Board of Directors. As Executive Director of Advancement Shannon Gilroy stated during the program, her dedication to advancing education in the state of Nebraska is truly remarkable, and BT is lucky to be included amongst the organizations she cares deeply about.



This year's Gala Co-Chairs were Chloe and Dan Firestone (parents to Pippa, '31) and Valerie and Casey Garrigan (parents to Liam, '25, Aiden, '27, and Declan, '30).



During the program, Janie Xu, '20, spoke about the opportunities she has had to explore interests and grow as a person through participation in a wide range of activities at BT because of the generosity of the BT community. Xu is a scholarship recipient, an extemporaneous speaker for the speech team, an assistant editor for the school newspaper and literary magazine, a violinist for the school orchestra, and the co-president of the Politics Club.

Check out this year's gala video, **We Are the Brownell Talbot Raiders**, at brownell.edu/galavideo.



A special thank you to Ellen and Stavelly Wright for underwriting the beautiful decorations in honor of Susan Dennis.



Student volunteers sold tickets for the \$10,000 raffle.

A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors:

— Visionaries —

Susan Dennis

— Heroes —

**The Lori and David Scott Foundation
Dr. Katie Weitz, PhD and Mr. Tim Wilson**

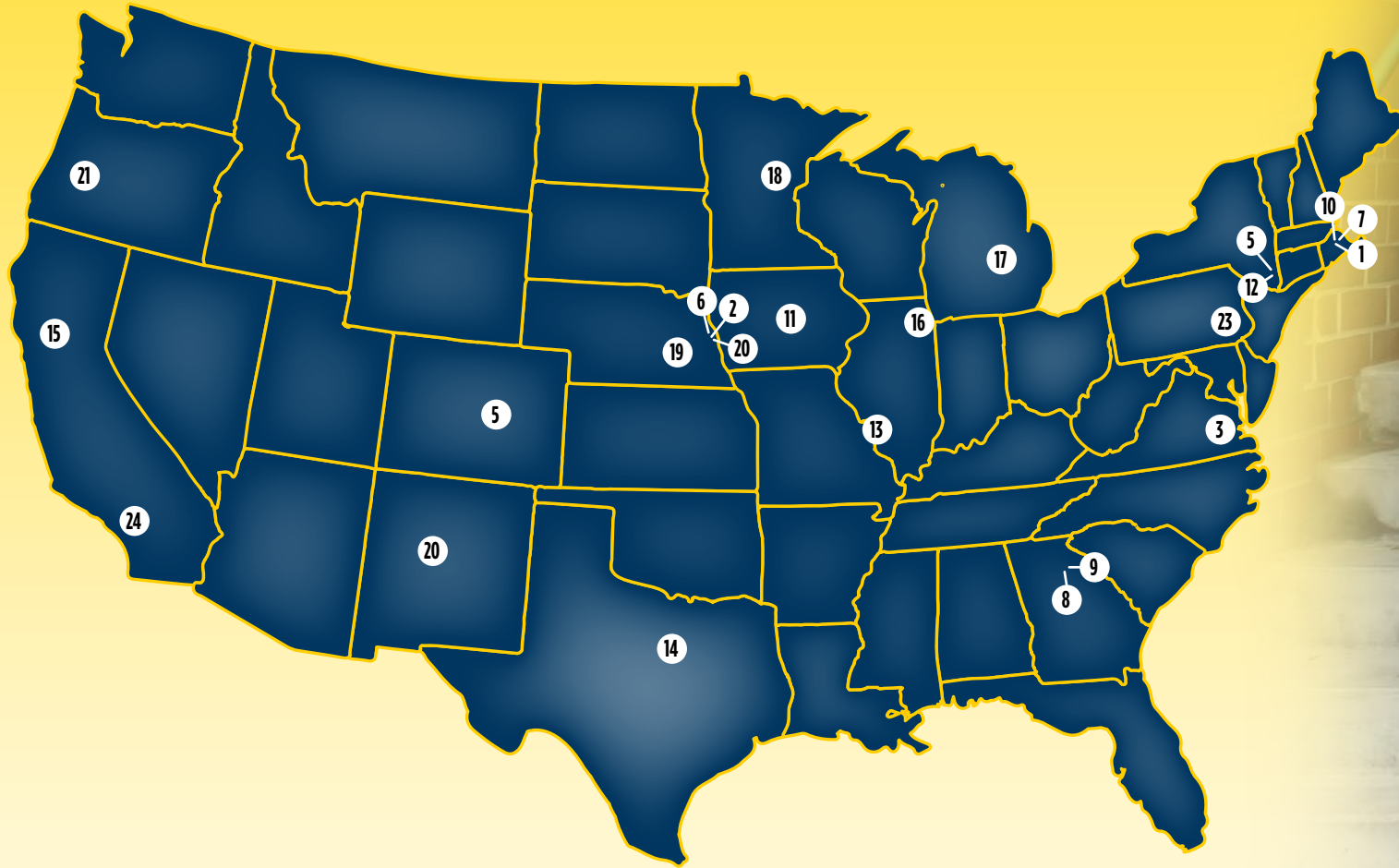
— Champions —

Valerie and Casey Garrigan



CLASS OF 2019 COLLEGE MATRICULATION

Are there any Raiders coming to your campus or university alma mater?



Fun Facts

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Berklee College of Music | 9. Georgia Institute of Technology | 17. University of Michigan |
| 2. Clarkson College | 10. Harvard University | 18. University of Minnesota |
| 3. College of William & Mary | 11. Iowa State University | 19. University of Nebraska at Lincoln |
| 4. Colorado College | 12. New York University | 20. University of Nebraska at Omaha |
| 5. Columbia University | 13. Saint Louis University | 21. University of New Mexico |
| 6. Creighton University | 14. Texas Christian University | 22. University of Oregon |
| 7. Emerson College | 15. University of California, Davis | 23. University of Pennsylvania |
| 8. Emory University | 16. University of Chicago | 24. University of Southern California |

1 D1 ATHLETE

2 GAP YEAR STUDENTS

KIVUNIM International Academic Program in Israel

3 PERFECT STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

3 SOCCER PLAYERS TO MAKE STATE

a first in school history!

7,500 HOURS OF SERVICE COMPLETED

a school record for the most volunteer hours

ALUMNI ON CAMPUS



ALUMNI VISITORS

1 Kathryn (Fairchild) Crombie, x'46, along with her son Rich, visited campus in March. This was her first visit back to Omaha and Brownell Hall since leaving the area as a young adult.

2 Melissa (Stoupa) Krejci, '01, brought back a chair she had painted her senior year.

CELEBRATE YOUR SENIOR LUNCH

3 Mike Cohen, '87, with daughter Lillian, '19, and wife Karen at the Celebrate Your Senior Lunch.

SPRING PLAY

4 Jessie Curry, '14, on the right, served as production stage manager for the school's spring play, *Whirligig*.

GALA

5 Erica (Aaron) Bradford, '97, and Steffon Bradford.

6 Julie Adams Anderson, '89, (on the right) with Margaux Towne.

7 Kim (Skutt) Davis, '76, and Jay Davis.

8 Mary (Marshall) Kerr, '67, (on the right) with Ellen Wright.

9 Michelle and Peter, '81, Massey.

10 Janet and Sam Clark, x'71.

11 Kristin and Shikhar Saxena, x'99.

12 David, '81, and Lori Scott, and Gary and Marsha Marron.



GRADUATION

13 Wellesley Michael, '14, delivered the commencement address at this year's ceremony.

14 Brandon Harrell, '19, with sister Megan, '15.

15 John Vovk, '18, with sister Maddie Vovk, '19.

16 Jocelyn Ho, '18, Alice Silberling, '19, Mary Ruth McLeay, '19, and Ameya Shelby, '18.

17 Hannah Liu, '18, Jade Griffin, '19, and Chris Kjeldgaard, '18.

18 Will Calderon, '15, Natalie Kuhn, '15, Emma Kuhn, '18, and Geoff Kuhn, '12.

19 Kelly McLeay, '11, with sister Mary Ruth McLeay, '19.

20 Peter Rice, '18, with sister Eliza, '19.

21 Fatima Basith, Colesun Wood, '19, and Lukmaan Sattar, '18.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Saif Shah, Class of 2012

I am currently a second-year dental student at Creighton University School of Dentistry and will graduate in 2022. I am active in the Creighton American Student Dental Association, numerous Deans Committees, and am pursuing dental research outside of my dental curriculum.

What BT teacher or experience had the biggest impact on you?

That is a very difficult question – I was fortunate to attend BT from four years old until I graduated. I was involved in numerous activities during my time at BT. I was pushed and encouraged in athletics through my coaches in tennis, basketball, and golf. I was challenged and supported by my teachers academically to reach my full potential. Each one of these coaches and teachers had a positive and significant impact on forming me into who I am today.

If you had your own talk show, who would your first three guests be?

Trevor Noah, LeBron James, and Malcolm Gladwell.

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

When I am not studying for classes or after a long day of clinic, I love to be active. Creighton's intramural sports are notorious for being very competitive and there are a lot of graduate school rivalries. I am involved in many intramural sports in the dental school – flag football, basketball, soccer, softball, to name a few. Additionally, I like to try different new restaurants and different foods all around Omaha and chronicle my experiences on Yelp!

What advice would you give to current BT students?

Get involved! Whether that is through sports, theatre, or music. Take the time now to step out of your comfort zone to try new things; this is the only way to find something you are truly passionate about. BT strives to support their students and gives them a vast number of opportunities to try different things, take advantage of them!

What's on your bucket list?

Skiing in the Chamonix Valley; visiting Salar De Uyuni, the world's largest salt flat in Bolivia; hiking in Patagonia; playing a round of golf at the Old Course – St. Andrews Links; descending into the Thrihnukagigur volcano located in Iceland.

If you had one extra hour of free time, how would you spend it?

If I had one extra hour of free time, I would love to get more into cooking. I am always intrigued by the creativity of chefs that are able to bring together different flavors or ingredients that may not be good on their own and transform them into a delectable dish.

What is your favorite family tradition?

One of my favorite family traditions is our annual Shah family trip! Each year my parents, sister (Sama, '17), and I try to visit a new place and immerse ourselves in the culture. So far my favorite places we have visited have been Marrakech, Morocco; Granada, Spain; Monaco; and New Zealand.

Fondest memory of BT?

Being able to be surrounded by my closest friends each day was truly special. My friends from BT have gone on to be true lifelong friends and to this day are a significant part of my life (Josh, '12, Jonny, '12, Zach, '12, and Forrest, '12 – Love you guys!).



ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

Susan "Susie" (Storz) Butler, x'44.

D. December 27, 2018

Mary Jane (Howe) McDonald, '43.

D. January 29, 2019

FRIENDS

Edward Langdon, M.D., survived by daughter Kathryn (Langdon) Eller, x'64, and stepdaughter Lucy Shirley, '71.

D. May 27, 2019

Richard DeLashmutt, Survived by wife, Melissa, and sons, Brayden, '27, and Cole, '27, DeLashmutt. *D. May 10, 2019*

Don Engdahl, trustee 1983-1988. Survived by daughter Nancy Robson, retired BT Lower School music teacher. *D. March 18, 2019*

Harry Koch, Jr., trustee 1966-1972. Survived by wife, Gail (Young) Koch, '49; son, Hal Koch, x'79; and sister-in-law, Daphne (Young) Fletcher, x'51. He is preceded in death by daughter, Kathy (Koch) Joyce, x'73; sister-in-law, Diane (Young) Hamsa, x'51; and mother-in-law, Katherine (Doorly) Clark, x'24. *D. February 24, 2019*

Dr. Del Weber, trustee 1979-1981. *D. January 12, 2019*

Patricia "Pat" Grace. Pat's husband John "Jack" Bruce was Headmaster of Brownell Hall/Headmaster of Brownell Talbot from 1959-1967. Survived by son John Bruce, x'83, and sister-in-law Ann Nordin, retired head of Brownell Talbot Middle School. *D. December 19, 2018*

Gerald William Giles, English department chair and drama director at BT 1967-1969. Survived by daughter Maura, x'77, and son-in-law John L. Watson, '69; daughters Vanessa and Michele, x'75; son Devin, x'81. *D. July 17, 2018*

NEWS



1. **Barbara (Sharpe) McKee, '54**, and her sister **Lowell (Sharpe) McMullin, '52**, enjoyed a fun trip to Harry Potter's Hogsmeade at Universal Studios in Los Angeles.

Jim Adams, '72, played the role of Doc in the Florentine Players 55th annual melodrama, *Come on, Eileen or Charlie & The Barley Beer Factory*.

2. **Rachel (Fowler) Sullivan, '11**, and husband Lucas Sullivan welcomed Oliver Wyndham Sullivan on December 28, 2018.

Jack Harvey, '07, is a realtor and owner of Meraki Realty Group. In 2017 and 2018 he was named a Berkshire Hathaway Chairman's Circle Award Winner.

Blair MacDonald, '08, was promoted to lobbyist for O'Hara Lindsay Government Relations.

3. **Linda Liu, '13**, and **Lindon Liu, '16**, joined their sister **Laura, '19**, for dinner who was in Chicago for the senior class trip.

Will Calderon, '15, graduated from Mississippi State with a Bachelor of Science degree from the Bagley College of Engineering's Swalm School of Chemical Engineering. He also completed his course of study through the Honors College and minors in chemistry and music. Calderon, who will begin a graduate program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is currently working as a research assistant at Creighton University.

4. **Chelsey (Watson) French, '06**, and husband Will welcomed Walter "Wally" Strawn French on February 27, 2019.

Caravaggio Caniglia, '15, graduated from Columbia University. Caniglia was selected as the 2019 Columbia College Class Day student speaker at their commencement.

Maddie Klinger, '15, graduated from Creighton University with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. She is working for Rex Insurance as an underwriter.

5. 2 LT **Robert Goetschkes, '15**, graduated with Military Distinction from the United States Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. Goetschkes is pictured with sister **Claire, '19**, and brother Nic.

Tenley Propst, '15, graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in civil engineering with an environmental emphasis. She is pursuing a masters degree in sustainable energy engineering at the Iceland School of Energy.

Sadie Rich, '15, graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Katie Wiegand, '15, graduated from Simpson College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music with a minor in theatre. Wiegand was Lilli in the school's spring musical, *Kiss Me, Kate*. She also played the role of Katherine in *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Camilo Zapata, '15, graduated from Fordham University.

Cheyenne Hanson, '16, is doing an internship with the Fremont, Nebraska police department this summer.

Adam Hedican, '17, participated in a panel discussion facilitated by Stacey Evert and Bri Vander Vorst at the Great Plains Association for College Admission Counseling Conference. The panel gave the audience their perspective on being members of Generation Z.

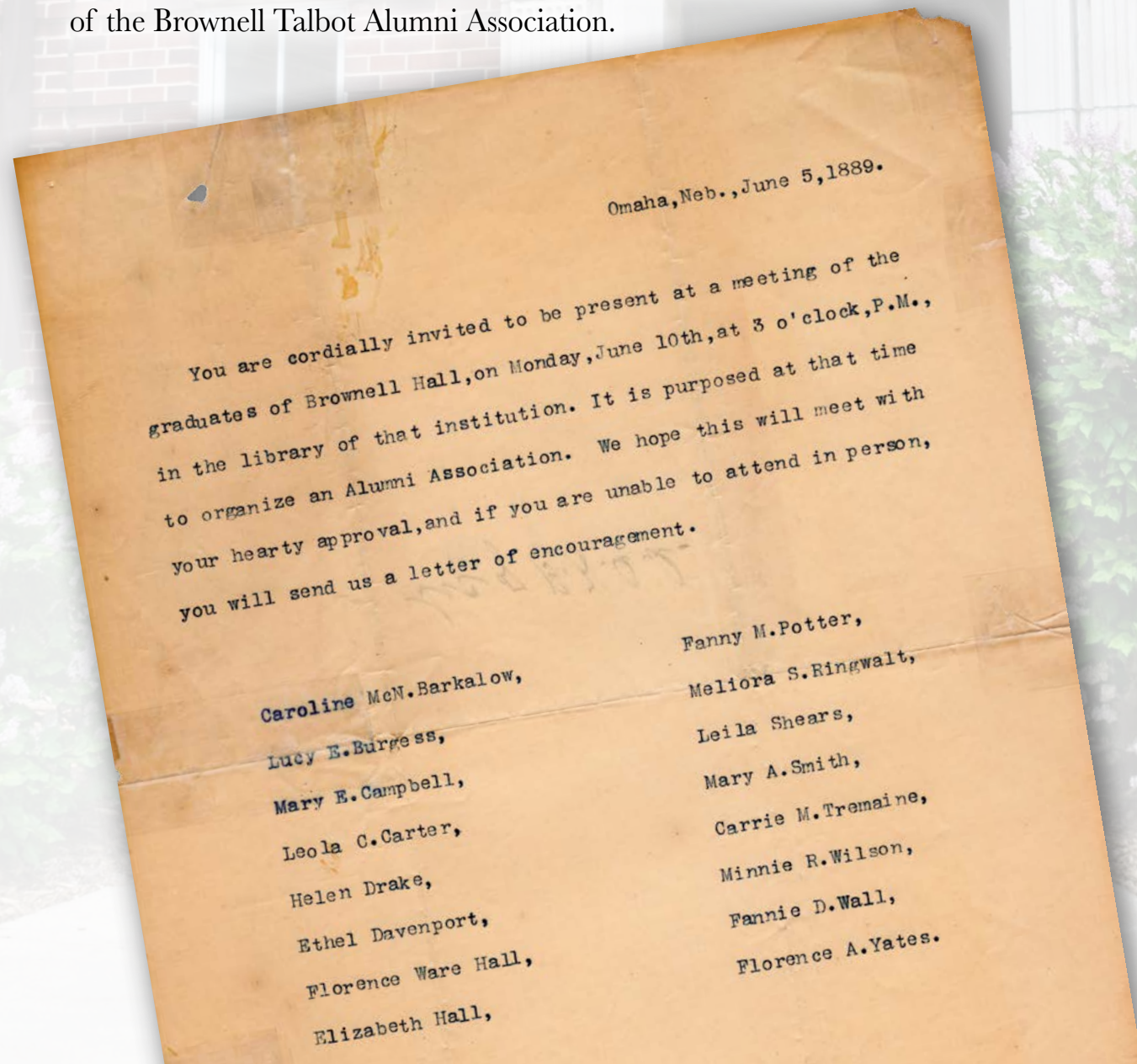
Denisse Navarro-Perez, '18, is Heider Dean's Fellows Student and a member of the Anna Tyler Waite Leadership Program at Creighton University. Navarro-Perez had an active freshman year, participating in the Markoe Scholars Leadership Program and serving as student committee lead for the documentary *Citizens of Nowhere*. She also served as the education and outreach intern for the Creighton Cupboard, a food pantry for students who are food insecure.

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.

A Page in Time

On June 10, 1889, the first Alumnae Association was formed for Brownell Hall. Meliora (Hall) Ringwalt, class of 1876, was the first president of the association. By 1889, Brownell Hall already had 61 alumnae and countless students who had attended the school for a brief period of time. The original association included those who had received a diploma from the school and paid the \$1 annual membership dues.

Today, all graduates and non-graduates are considered members of the Brownell Talbot Alumni Association.



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 or 402.556.3772.

BROWNELL TALBOT'S EARLY YEARS PROGRAM

**BT now accepts students who turn 3
by October 31 to the Early Years program!**

PROGRAM DIFFERENTIATORS

- **Early Years classrooms have an average student to teacher ratio of 6:1.**
- **Allows children to be placed in the classroom where they will best succeed.**
- **Introduces BT's social emotional curriculum and mindfulness practices. BT teaches an evidence-based approach that helps the school community integrate the practice of emotional intelligence into daily life.**
- **Exposes children to a learning environment that develops critical thinking during crucial development years. French, library, music, art, and PE are taught by subject matter experts.**

"I am excited by the opportunities that our new Early Years framework will offer to our youngest students. The new structure supports our commitment to small, well-balanced classes and individualized learning by allowing us the flexibility to place children in the best possible learning environment based on the needs of each child."

Sandy Melilli, Early Years Teacher

Interested in learning more?
Contact Director of Admissions Kim Schinzel at 402.556.3772.



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OCT 11

**ALUMNI & FRIENDS
HOMECOMING TAILGATE**

NOV 27

ALUMNI HARDWOOD HUSTLE

JAN 25

TRIVIA NIGHT

Is your class planning a reunion?

We look forward to welcoming you back to campus.

Contact Renae Mackender at renae.mackender@brownell.edu today!



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