



Fireside

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



**Great Schools Start
with Great People**
more on page 7

A WILD Gala Weekend
more on page 11

**Congratulations to
the Class of 2023!**
more on page 17



Notes from Worthington Hall

Dear BT Community,

It is with great pleasure and immense pride that I share this summer's edition of Fireside magazine. This edition not only celebrates the successes of our alumni and current students, but also focuses on the remarkable accomplishments and unwavering dedication of our faculty and staff. They have been the driving force behind BT's ability to know, inspire, and challenge our students, ensuring that each individual receives an exceptional education and experiences personal growth.

Our faculty and staff embody excellence, passion, and an unwavering commitment to nurturing the potential within every student who walks through our doors. Their tireless efforts in creating an environment that fosters academic excellence and character development have made BT the place where educators aspire to work, and I am grateful for their outstanding contributions.

I am thrilled to announce that BT has achieved record enrollment - we will welcome 488 students to start this school year. We are excited for them to join our vibrant school community. This milestone not only reflects the trust and confidence that families place in our institution but also affirms our commitment to providing an exceptional educational experience that prepares students for a successful future. It is truly a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff who consistently go above and beyond to create a nurturing and inclusive learning environment.

As we celebrate our growing community, we must also take a moment to honor the graduating Class of 2023. These remarkable young individuals have worked tirelessly, overcoming challenges and embracing opportunities to reach this momentous milestone. They have demonstrated resilience, creativity, and the ability to adapt to an ever-changing world. I have no doubt that they will make a lasting impact on their communities and the world at large. We are immensely proud of their achievements and look forward to witnessing their future successes.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to BT's Board of Trustees for their exemplary leadership and governance of our beloved institution. Their guidance and strategic vision have been instrumental in positioning BT as a beacon of educational excellence in Omaha and beyond. With their invaluable support, we have been able to navigate through challenges and embrace opportunities, always placing our students' needs at the forefront.

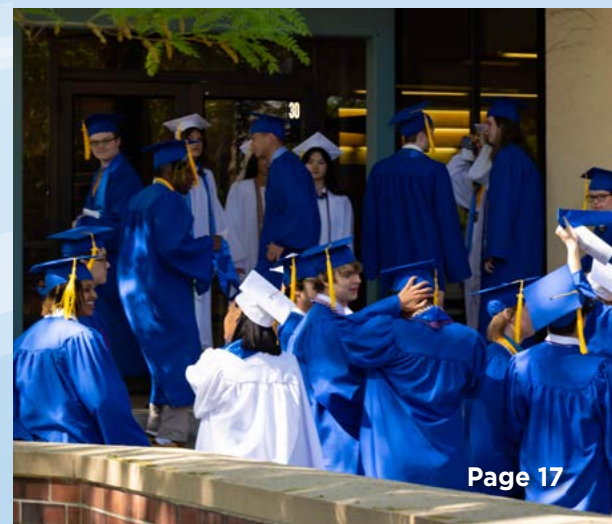
As we embark on another exciting year at BT, let us celebrate our remarkable faculty and staff who shape the hearts and minds of our students every day. Together, we will continue to create a brighter future for our students and uphold the legacy of excellence that defines BT.

Kristi N. Gibbs

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Table of Contents
- 2 What's Happening on Campus?
- 4 Finding Camaraderie through Science Competition
- 6 Introducing Mike Shukis, Fitness Center Director and Strength Coach
- 7 Great Schools Start with Great People
- 9 Exploring Dynamic Learning Environments
- 10 Reintroducing: The Brownell Talbot Foundation
- 11 A WILD Gala Weekend
- 13 Faculty and Staff Professional Development Endowment Fund
- 14 BT Fund
- 15 Congratulations to Alleta Scott on her retirement!
- 16 Board of Trustees
- 17 Congratulations to the Class of 2023!
- 19 Alumni on Campus
- 21 Alumni Spotlight: Saidah Mayo, Class of 2008
- 22 Alumni News and Notes



Fireside is published for alumni, families, and friends of Brownell Talbot College Preparatory School. Send story ideas and comments to Brownell Talbot, attn: Megan Hunter, 400 N. Happy Hollow Blvd., Omaha, NE 68132; email megan.hunter@brownell.edu.

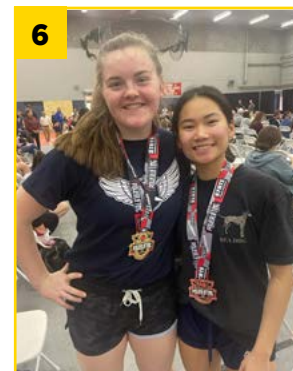
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WHAT'S HAPPENING — ON CAMPUS? —



1. Third Grade Keeps Omaha Beautiful

In partnership with Keep Omaha Beautiful, third grade participated in a creek clean up, which tied directly into their inquiry unit “Where Did All the Water Go?” The group was able to remove 7.5 lbs of trash and over 10 lbs of recyclables from the creek and trail that run along Happy Hollow Blvd.

2. Wax Museum Gets a Makeover

BT’s fourth grade class rebranded the annual Wax Museum, presenting Night at the Museum to fellow students, families, faculty, and staff.

3. Snyder Earns National Writing Award

Calvin Snyder, '24, was awarded a Gold Medal for his work of nonfiction, “Lost in Translation: The Perils of Displaying Aquatic Life,” as part of the 2023 National Scholastic Art and

Writing Awards. Earlier this year he was awarded a Gold Medal for the same work as part of the Nebraska Scholastic Art and Writing awards.

4. Service through STEM

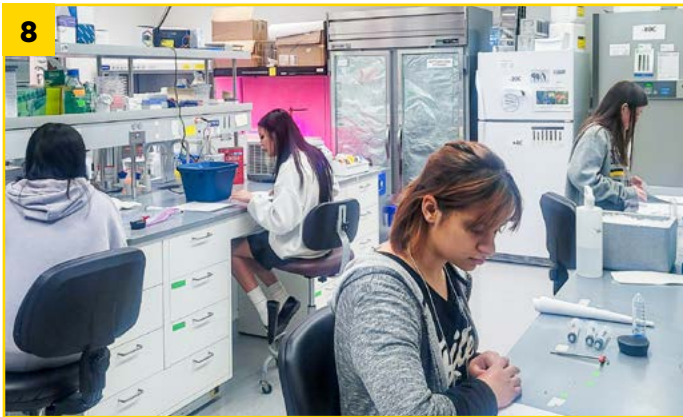
On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, students in grades 2-4 and Upper School students combined service learning and STEM, experimenting with biomes and chemical reactions before creating STEM kits for a children’s home in Georgia.

5. Butterfield House Does Good

As part of Omaha’s Do Good Days, Butterfield House volunteered at Release, Inc. Release provides mental health and foster care for youth and families. Butterfield House chose mental health to be their service learning focus for the year.

6. Powerful Return to Powerlifting

BT has returned to powerlifting competitions. In February, Paige Birch, '23, placed first in the Midland University High



School Powerlifting State Championships. Laura Recker, '23, placed third.

7. BT Swimmers Named Champs!

For the first time in program history, the BT Aquatic Club was named the Midwestern Swimming Champion in the small team division!

8. Upper School Women in Science

Alicia Cooper, '24, Anna Kahn, '24, Clare Schinzel, '24, and Francesca Vidal, '24, attended the Women in Science Conference, hosted by University of Nebraska-Lincoln and sponsored by Epscor. The students had the opportunity to hear keynote remarks from scientists in Entomology and Public Health fields and participate in hands-on research in a working biochemistry lab.

9. NAHS Creates, Installs Mural

National Art Honors Society students created a 6'x24' mural with sixth grade students from Jesuit Academy. The mural was

designed by both schools and was sponsored by Jay Robinson Productions and North Omaha On the Rise. Students installed the mural in May at 5505 N. 30th St.

10. Eighth Grade College Counseling

In March the eighth grade class visited Nebraska Wesleyan University as part of their college counseling class. The visit included a panel discussion with current NWU students, who shared advice about navigating high school and college applications.

11. Acadec Wins State Small School Competition

BT's Acadec Team competed at the State Academic Decathlon at Bellevue University, placing first in the Very Small School Competition, second in the Small School Competition, and fourth overall.



FINDING CAMARADERIE THROUGH SCIENCE COMPETITION



Founded in 1984, Science Olympiad is a national team STEM competition where individuals and teams use engineering skills and science content as a basis for participating in testing events, lab events, and building events.

Although the Science Olympiad has been around for almost 40 years, Brownell Talbot only entered the playing field during the 2020-2021 school year, under the leadership of BT chemistry teacher Kari Newman. Newman is well versed in the Science Olympiad world; she competed in high school and ran events at other schools.

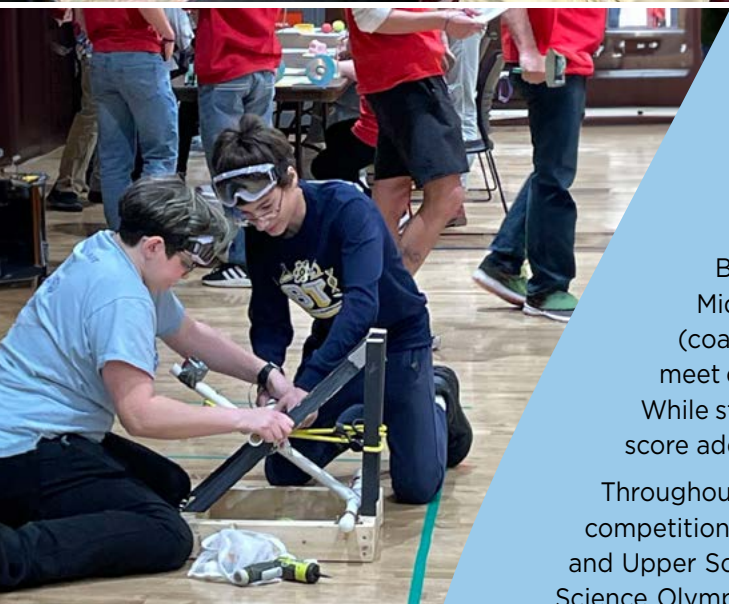
“Science Olympiad is a fun way to show you know science,” said Newman. “Science is about communicating, engineering, and experimenting, and Science Olympiad is a fun competition that involves all three of those skills.”

BT currently has two teams, Middle School (coached by Middle School science teacher Abby Diehl) and Upper School (coached by Newman), with 15 students on each team. Students meet during their flex time and after school to prepare for their events. While students can win events as smaller teams or individuals, the team score adds up to a trophy in the end.

Throughout the school year, teams prepare and enter into various competitions, culminating in the Nebraska State Competition. BT’s Middle and Upper School Science Olympiad teams competed at the 35th Nebraska Science Olympiad this year. There were 25 middle school teams and 30 high school teams competing, and both of BT’s teams finished in the top 5, with Middle School placing 4th and Upper School placing 5th.

Students are already preparing for next year, finding ways to improve their current designs, dreaming up new ideas, and even planning to host BT’s first invitational next year. In a short amount of time, Science Olympiad has become a favorite activity among Middle and Upper School students. Fans of science programming at BT will want to stay tuned - BT hopes to win a bid to Nationals in the not-too-distant future.

“The students are a lot more confident and every year they have more and better ideas,” said Newman. “It’s fun to witness their growth, not only year over year, but even just from the beginning to the end of the season.”





INTRODUCING:

Mike Shukis, Fitness Center Director and Strength Coach

Mike Shukis comes to Brownell Talbot from University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) but his history of fitness and athletics began long before then. Shukis played high school golf, and then college golf at both the University of Nebraska at Kearney and UNO. Shukis was an assistant in the strength and conditioning department at UNO for four years before serving at the director level. He also worked at a private gym in town, coaching youth volleyball and training individual sports players.

While a director at UNO, Shukis worked with coaches to help train athletes. At BT, Shukis is excited to stretch his abilities at teaching and to work more closely with individuals.

“BT offers an opportunity to see students all the way through. It’s challenging, but more impactful to actually help them develop skills around basic body awareness, flexibility, and nutrition,” Shukis said.

Shukis has many opportunities to connect with students, not just when teaching or training, but also as an Upper School House Dean.

“I’m around those students all the time, and it’s not about just athletic goals, but about helping them develop good habits.”

Shukis says working with BT students has motivated him to simplify his messages to help

them understand why he asks them to do what they are doing and to tie it to an overall goal of healthy living.

“The weight room can be intimidating, but it’s not the only way to live healthy and better. My focus is on tying education and good habits together to create a lifelong positive impact.”

Shukis has plans to support the BT community beyond teaching students. This spring he developed a fitness challenge to encourage faculty and staff to start moving and is also implementing a faculty and staff wellness program for the 2023-2024 school year.

“I want to promote general wellness for faculty and staff, giving them tips for different areas such as nutrition, exercise, hydration, and sleep. Even simple things like how to set up a desk and incorporate movement breaks into their day.”

FAVORITE SPORT TO WATCH: Golf

FAVORITE MOVIE: Dumb and Dumber

FAVORITE ACTIVITY: I like to read, mainly books about coaching

FAVORITE HEALTHY SNACKS:
Fruit and popcorn

Great Schools Start with Great People



Brownell Talbot's Enrollment Office receives more than 500 inquiries and tour requests each year, giving the school ample opportunity to anticipate the needs and wants of prospective families. One of the most popular lines of inquiry relates to who BT hires.

"On a weekly basis, our Enrollment Office hears 'what sets BT faculty apart?'" said Head of School Kristi N. Gibbs, Ed.D.

Human resources are an essential part of any organization, and it couldn't be more true in the school environment, where teachers are the single most important factor in student learning and achievement. The BT parent community shares this belief, with 95.79% of respondents to the 2021-2022 Parent Satisfaction Survey stating the quality of teachers is very important to their child's academic experience at BT.

"Faculty are at the heart of what we do," said Gibbs. "Their jobs require a level of passion and compassion that goes beyond what is expected or needed of almost any other profession, and it is those two components, more than anything, that we are looking for when we interview candidates."

According to Gibbs, BT's faculty are defined by their commitment to education and whole child instruction, knowledge of their curriculum, and a firm belief that they can make a difference in the life of every student. They are professionals who have undergone extensive training to become experts in their field. The faculty come to BT with several years of experience teaching, often in independent or international schools - BT faculty have an average tenure of 18.5 years. Many have pursued advanced degrees (82% have a master's degree and five have doctorates), and all are asked to continue their learning through professional development that equips them with the latest teaching methodologies and techniques to help children learn better.



"I believe that, as the popularity of ChatGPT and AI grows, it will be the human connections that make the difference between a good school and a great school. We are very fortunate to employ so many talented and inspiring professionals who excel in supporting each other and our students socially and emotionally to create the inclusive and welcoming environment that has become a hallmark of Brownell Talbot," said Gibbs.





The new classroom furniture is modular, lightweight, and easily moved into an endless number of configurations to suit the day's activities. Tables feature whiteboard tops for students to visually collaborate in real-time. There are multiple seating options to accommodate the preferences of the learners in the room.

Exploring Dynamic Learning Environments

This past spring Head of School Kristi N. Gibbs, Ed.D., announced the launch of a pilot program that connects the learning environment with classroom teachers and the curriculum to serve as the third “teacher” in the classroom.

To do this, BT partnered with national and international experts in spatial design and authentic learning experiences to take this important step toward achieving BT’s strategic plan goal of becoming “the standard for excellence in learning environments, facilities, equipment, and technologies within global education.”

The pilot program is centered on listening to student experiences and providing dynamic learning environments to better support BT’s mission of knowing, inspiring, and challenging every student. The program also provides an exciting professional development opportunity that will ultimately strengthen BT faculty’s ability to promote active and engaged learning. This work is being led by Assistant Head of Academics Crystal Vaught, Ed.D., and teachers Cassie Grant, Tami Petrusis, Betsy Peterson, Jessi Ryan, and Amber Straka.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAM

- Installation of new learning environments in selected classrooms across all divisions that promote engagement, creativity, and critical thinking.
- Use of new furniture that allows for flexible and student-centered learning experiences.
- Series of educator workshops co-created with BT faculty and leading experts in authentic learning experiences to educate students, faculty, and staff on maximizing the environment as the third teacher.
- Gathering of student feedback to ensure that the learning spaces meet their needs and preferences.
- Gathering of student engagement data to better understand how the enhanced environment is supporting learning.
- Elevating what teachers learn to the state and national level through publications and workshops as part of BT’s journey to becoming the standard of excellence.

REINTRODUCING: The Brownell Talbot Foundation

As a part of implementing Brownell Talbot's strategic plan and to align with philanthropic best practices, BT is reinvigorating an important part of its fundraising structure.

"The Brownell Talbot Foundation has been dormant for years, and with renewed energy around strengthening BT's philanthropy and sustainability, the Brownell Talbot Foundation is a relevant and important component as we continue to build a culture of philanthropy on our campus," said Vice President of Advancement Shannon Gilroy.

The Foundation's work and focus will be dedicated to raising funds for campus improvements, endowments, and school operations.

"A strong Foundation is a sign of longevity and stability for Brownell Talbot," she said.

The Brownell Talbot Foundation is a Nebraska nonprofit corporation and will be led by a

Board composed of leaders in the BT and Omaha community.

Going forward, all tax-deductible donations to Brownell Talbot will be made through the Brownell Talbot Foundation.

"There is a bold vision for the future of BT, and re-establishing the Foundation will help us achieve it," Gilroy said.

The Foundation is the mechanism through which the strategic plan can be fulfilled, and more. It is because of the generous BT community that the past will be honored as BT moves toward a sustainable future.

Always advancing, always BT.

BROWNELL TALBOT FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS



Dean Hollis



David Scott, '81



Diny Landen



John Kotouc



Jerry Reimer



Megan Belcher

YOUR DONATIONS MATTER

The ways you can support BT have not changed. In fact, the only immediate difference is if you make a charitable gift via check, please make it out to the Brownell Talbot Foundation.

BT still humbly accepts contributions in many ways, including:

- Cash or check, written to the Brownell Talbot Foundation
- Online via the website: brownell.edu/giving
- Planned gifts through estates, life insurance, and other financial plans
- In-kind donations

Questions about how this news may impact your charitable giving? Contact Shannon Gilroy at shannon.gilroy@brownell.edu.



A WILD GALA WEEKEND

The Brownell Talbot community demonstrated how WILD about BT they are during the 2023 gala weekend. This year's gala included the Gala Soirée at the Cottonwood Hotel on Friday, May 12, and the Gala Carnival on BT's campus on Saturday, May 13. Gala weekend was made even more special with the opportunity to honor the Brownell Talbot faculty and staff as this year's Honorary Chairs.

Through the generosity and leadership of many, *Gala 2023: Wild About BT* raised \$1.44 million for scholarships, academic programs, athletics, the fine arts, activities, and faculty and staff development. The weekend included many memorable moments including the announcement of the establishment of a Faculty and Staff Professional Development Endowment Fund (*learn more on page 13*) that ensures the continuity of robust opportunities for learning and growth.

Gala weekend was possible because of the leadership and dedication of this year's

Gala Co-Chairs, Michele Aizenberg Ansari and Shervin Ansari and Gale Etherton and Fedja Rochling, along with an exceptional group of parent volunteers who made up this year's gala steering committee and an incredible team of BT staff and event volunteers.

Every event sponsorship, underwriting donation, bid placed, and paddle raised during gala weekend has a direct impact on BT's mission to know, inspire, and challenge every student, heart, and mind and is a reflection of how wild the BT community is about our school.

If you missed the opportunity to support Brownell Talbot through gala and would still like to invest in BT students, faculty, and staff, visit brownell.edu/gala to make your tax-deductible gift.

View this year's gala video on BT's Youtube channel as students and alumni reflect on this year's Honorary Chairs - BT's faculty and staff!



SUPPORTING OUR MISSION



BROWNELL TALBOT GALA 2023

HONORARY CHAIRS

The Faculty & Staff of Brownell Talbot

GALA CHAIRS

Michele Aizenberg Ansari & Shervin Ansari
Gale Etherton & Fedja Rochling

STEERING COMMITTEE

- Natalia Atchley
- Fatima Basith
- Megan Belcher
- Rhonda Bishop
- Kaleena Biggerstaff
- Laura Crosby
- Marion Dawber
- Annie Daugherty
- Becky Dougherty
- Dan Dougherty
- Ashley DuBois
- Casey Garrigan
- Valerie Garrigan
- Stephanie Graham
- Bridget Hamill
- Megan Harding
- Cari (Stinn) Iqbal, '06
- Angeline Larson
- Annie Linberg, '04
- Patra Pakieser
- Jamie Ryan
- Casie Schlueter
- Shivani Sharma, '04
- Debbie Wood

**THANK YOU TO
OUR SPONSORS:**

Weekend Presenting Sponsor

Diventures
Dean and Lisa Hollis

Soirée Sponsor

**Michele Aizenberg Ansari
and Shervin Ansari**

Carnival Sponsor

**Gale Etherton and
Fedja Rochling**

Visionary



The Lori and David Scott Foundation

Hero

Brian & Debbie Wood
TransWood

**Heidi Venteicher, '94, and
Richard Dingman**

**Katie Weitz, PhD
and Tim Wilson**

Champion



**Friends of
Brownell Talbot**

Sherry and Wes Hutcherson



**SUPPORTING OUR
MISSION**

Faculty and Staff

Professional Development Endowment Fund

Brownell Talbot is excited to announce the establishment of an endowed fund dedicated to supporting faculty and staff professional development opportunities.

This is a remarkable milestone in BT's commitment to fostering academic excellence and personal growth. The creation of this endowed fund is possible due to the generosity of many and in conjunction with the celebration of Brownell Talbot faculty and staff as the 2023 Gala Honorary Chairs.

The newly established fund marks an exciting chapter in BT's ongoing efforts to nurture and empower BT's esteemed faculty and staff members. By providing dedicated financial resources, the fund will make possible opportunities for faculty and staff to enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities, ultimately benefiting the entire BT community.

Faculty and staff will be encouraged to explore the various avenues this fund offers and to seize these opportunities for professional growth and development, reinforcing BT's

commitment to providing a supportive environment that nurtures their talents and expertise.

The establishment of this endowed fund is a testament to the BT community's commitment to supporting faculty and staff in meaningful ways. BT is deeply grateful to the donors and leaders whose generosity has made this initiative possible and helped shape a brighter future for the school community, fostering excellence, and empowering faculty and staff to reach new heights of success.

If you would like to be a part of this exciting opportunity and make a gift to the Brownell Talbot Faculty and Staff Endowment, please contact Vice President of Advancement Shannon Gilroy at shannon.gilroy@brownell.edu or visit brownell.edu/gala.

Thank You to the Donors Who Supported the Faculty and Staff Professional Development Endowment Fund

Fr. Tony Anderson
Gwenn and Jeremy Aspen
Helena Aung
Shruti and Jeff Beckmann
Rhonda and Jeff Bishop
Eric Burden and Charlie Sullivan
Sheila Christ and Fred Vakili
Libby Collins
Lauren and Christian Correa, '04
Laura and Brad Crosby
Tiffany and Corey Dencklau
Becky and Dan Dougherty
Gale Etherton and Fedja Rochling
Valerie and Casey Garrigan

Kristi and Jason Gibbs
Leanne Goeschel
Elizabeth and PJ Grieger
Taylor Gustafson
Bridget and Mark Hamill
Amy and Kim Hawkins, x'98
Lisa and Dean Hollis
Monica Hughes
Sherrye and Westly Hutcherson
Katie and Grant Hutchins
Mahamane Iro
Shari Jensen
Wende and John Kotouc
Heather McIntyre-Haas

Claudia Mills
Jill and Jeff Nelson
Karen and Terry Olin
Chris Palo
Jimmy Parmenter
Jerry and Kelly Reimer
Carrie Rise
Jamie and Steve Ryan
Mike Shukis
Angela and Damien Shull
Lisa and Randy Strunk
Rebecca and Rory Sudbeck
Yuyan and Tim Vernon
Bri Vander Vorst

Faculty and Staff Professional Development Endowment by the Numbers

Number of Faculty and Staff
who donated to the fund: **18**

Number
of gifts: **47**

Total raised:
\$125,565

Average gift size:
\$2,672

Largest gift:
\$50,000

SUPPORTING OUR
MISSION

BROWNELL TALBOT

Results at a Glance 2022-2023

The Brownell Talbot community came together to raise critical funds through the The BT Fund, the school's annual fundraising appeal. Check out the many milestones reached and the fun celebrations for students held in recognition of BT parents' outstanding participation!



2 Houses
(Butterfield and Hermann)
hit 100% participation.



**1 cookie
creation
party**



**100% participation
by faculty and staff**

**458
gifts**

**81% parent
participation**



**6 ice
cream
sundae
bars**



**3 extra
recesses**

**Every single
grade and House
met or exceeded
60% participation.**

**All of Lower School
had at least
80% participation.**

**\$397,191
raised!**



**4 popcorn
pop-ups**



**2 donuts
days**

**7
pajama
days**



**7 pizza
parties**



**11 grades and Houses
celebrated a week out
of uniform for reaching
80% participation.**

**\$862
average
gift
amount**



Congratulations and thank you again for being a part of BT's culture of philanthropy this year. *We are grateful!*



Congratulations to Alleta Scott on her well-deserved retirement!

26 YEARS IN BT'S BUSINESS OFFICE

Alleta Scott has been a dedicated, hard working, and caring team member of the Business and Finance team.

As BT's accounts receivable and purchasing specialist, Scott helped students, families, faculty, and staff members with tuition payments, book ordering, cash bags for class fundraisers, classroom supplies, and more. Known for being friendly, welcoming, and having a strong work ethic, she has been an integral part of BT's staff.

"Thank you for guiding me and helping me navigate accounts and expenditures and everything a theatre director needs to learn to help run a program.

Your kindness is extraordinary."

-Jennifer Morgan,
theatre teacher

"You were always easy to work with, understanding, and very kind. Each time you fixed an issue for me it was like a breath of fresh air and a burden had been lifted. Your kindness, thoughtfulness, and caring nature will not be forgotten. Thank you so very much!"

- Angela Bennett,
current parent

"To say that you will be missed at BT has got to be the understatement of the year. I cannot even begin to count the number of times I would poke my head into your office needing help. You would stop what you were doing, smile at me, and then proceed to work your magic, solving whatever problem I had. I hope you leave BT knowing what a positive impact you made and wish you all that you hope for in retirement. You deserve it!"

- Sandy Melilli, retired teacher



Favorite BT Memory

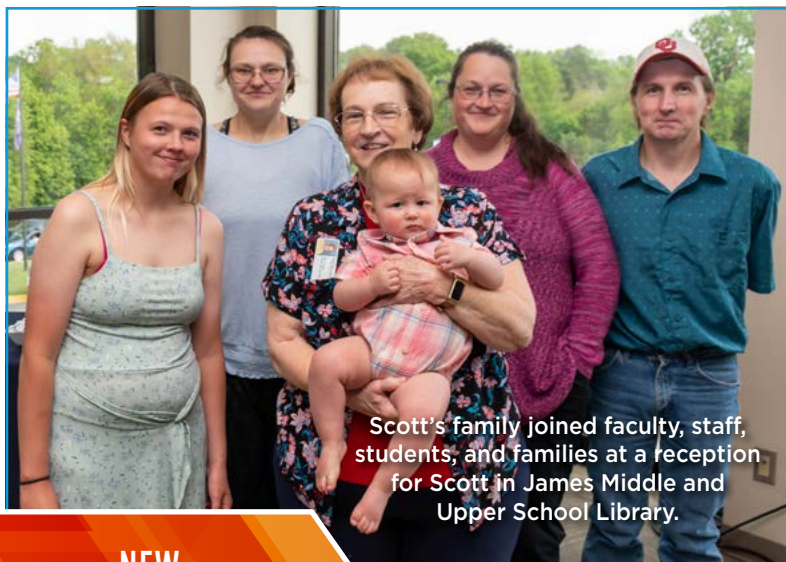
My all-time favorite memories are when we were in the temporary offices while construction was done on Worthington Hall - our cookouts, the flamingos, Desler Acres, the camaraderie.

What Will You Miss Most About BT?

I will miss the many great friendships with caring people, watching and listening to the students play on the playground from my office window, talking and laughing with co-workers, and the everyday hum of the office.

Retirement Plans

I plan on enjoying my first summer ever not working! My sisters and I are traveling to Yellowstone and my brother-in-law will be our chauffeur! Mostly, I'm excited to spend more time with my grandchildren and have the opportunity to give back and volunteer.



Scott's family joined faculty, staff, students, and families at a reception for Scott in James Middle and Upper School Library.

2023-2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Chris Hedican, chair



Megan Belcher, vice-chair



Jerry Reimer, treasurer



Gale Etherton, secretary



Laura Crosby



Marc DuBois



Stephen George



Sherrye Hutcherson



Chip James II, '88



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Karalee Picard



Pirzada Sattar



Shikhar Saxena, x'99



Lori Scott



Corrie Shumaker



David Welch



Renee Wessels



Brian Wood

The Brownell Talbot Board of Trustees is responsible for charting the school's course and for being strategic and future-focused about how BT delivers the educational experience we all want for our students, families, faculty and staff, and school community.

During the May meeting of BT's Board of Trustees, Laura Crosby concluded her time as Brownell Talbot's Board of Trustees chair, and leadership officially transferred to Chris Hedican, who has been on the Board since 2015.

Thank you, Laura Crosby!

In 2014 Crosby joined BT's Board of Trustees and became Board chair in 2018. She has been instrumental in providing thoughtful, forward-focused governance to the school through many challenges - including strategic planning, facilities master planning, and COVID-19 response and operations - that have ultimately strengthened BT's mission and our ability to deliver on that mission. She will remain on the Board of Trustees and continue to help move BT forward through her committee work.

The CLASS OF 2023

celebrated their commencement on May 27, 2023, in Scott Gymnasium



The 32 members of Brownell Talbot's Class of 2023 were offered admission to 87 colleges and universities in 25 states, the District of Columbia, England and the Netherlands.

Mean
GPA:
3.65

88%
of graduates were
offered one or more
merit scholarships

More than \$5.8 million in
scholarships were offered.

15 "LIFERS"
attended Brownell Talbot since
preschool, junior kindergarten,
or kindergarten.

NEW
BEGINNINGS



WHAT'S NEXT?

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

Barnard College of Columbia University • Bentley University • Chapman University • Columbia University
Creighton University (4) • Grinnell College • Iowa State University (2) • Nebraska Wesleyan University
Purdue University • Saint Edward's University • San Diego State University • United States Air Force Academy
University of Amsterdam • University of Chicago • University of Iowa • University of Miami
University of Missouri (Columbia) • University of Nebraska at Omaha (2) • University of Nebraska-Lincoln (4)
University of Notre Dame (2) • University of Pennsylvania • Yeshiva University
And a global health internship in Africa!

ALUMNI *on Campus*



1 Shane Fleming, '17, and Tucker Curry, '17, stopped by campus this spring to visit former teachers. Pictured with math teacher and robotics coach Carrie Rise.

2 JuSTEMagine founder Jack Cenovic, '22, partnered with science teacher Jay Sauer to lead Lower School students through a science experiment at BT's Service through STEM event on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

3 Hanna Kober, '21, Cece Stuke, '21, Thalia Lawson-Betum, '21, Savannah Brym, '20, Grace Thaden, '20, Lauren Thaden, '17, and Sean Gardner, '17, participated in a panel discussion for juniors and seniors about their post-graduation transition.

4 Zeke Krejci-Hyde, '20, returned to campus as a member of the Doane University Collegiate Choral group, and made time to catch up with Fine Arts Department Chair J.R. Gould.

5 Vice President of Advancement Shannon Gilroy met with Virginia (Weltmer) Kassel, '50, at her home on a recent trip to New York City. During their time together, Virginia had the opportunity to page through Brownell Talbot's 150th Anniversary book, spending some extra time on page 97 where she is featured.

6 Jorge Sotolongo, '06, Chloe Tran-Thompson, '14, Thalia Lawson-Betum, '21, Christian Correa, '04, Shivani Sharma, '04, Will Calderon, '15, and Charlotte Hedican, '15, participated in a panel discussion for faculty and staff about belonging at BT.

Celebrate Your Senior

7 Legacy families with seniors graduating from BT this year are Nate Brown, son of Chuck, x'95, and Danielle Brown (not pictured); Jack Cohen, son of Mike, '87, and Karen Cohen; Jon Massey, son of Peter, '81, and Michelle Massey (not pictured); Dylan Scott, son of David, '81, and Lori Scott.



Gala

8 Among the alums attending this year's gala were:

- Shikhar, x'99, and Kristin Saxena
- Peter, '81, and Michelle Massey
- Shivani Sharma, '04, and Chris Pomerleau
- Heidi Venteicher, '04, Rich Dingman, Susan Venteicher, Kristina McCarthy, Katie McCarthy, '18, Leone Klinger, x'19, and Davis Fogel.

Graduation

9 Brownell Talbot welcomed Shivani Sharma, '04, to speak at Commencement this year.

The following alumni were on campus to celebrate Commencement:

Matt Alli, '21, and Colin Alli, '23

Jack Cenovic, '22, and Claire Cenovic, '23, with parents Karen and Terry Olin.

Eva Cohen, '26, Jack Cohen, '23, and Lillian Cohen, '19, with parents Mike, '87, and Karen Cohen.

Graham Dudley, x'21, and Ben Dudley, '23, with BT teacher and mom, Jenna Dudley.

Maya, x'23, and Miles Hutcherson, '23, with parents Wes and Sherry Hutcherson, BT trustee.

Ashton Reimer, '21, Beckham Reimer, '26, and Sophie Reimer, '23, with parents Jerry Reimer, BT trustee, and Kelly Reimer.

Allie Froendt, '22, Emma Gould, '23, and Jamie Gould, x'19.

Drew Massey, '22, and Jon Massey, '23, with parents Peter, '81, and Michelle Massey.

Lukmaan Sattar, '17, and Rayaana Sattar, '23, with parents Fatima Basith and Pirezada Sattar, BT trustee.

Madison Scott, '18, Dylan Scott, '23, and Kaitlyn Scott, '21, with parents W. David Scott, '81, and Lori Scott, BT trustee.

After college, I married my high school sweetheart, Andy Mayo '07! We celebrate 11 years this month. Together, we are busy with our three little boys (8 years, 5 years, and 6 months old). I'm a dentist on a mission to improve my patients' smiles and airways! And finally, thanks to my talented sister, Tabia Yapp, '10 (owner of a luxury floral studio based in LA), I now also have a floral business of my own, Of The Vine Florals, located in Omaha! On the days I'm not with patients, I get to design and play with flowers. It's a family business for sure - I'm so blessed to have my whole family, including my siblings Aisha Yapp, '13, and Rashaan Yapp, '20, involved with the big floral events as well!

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

Brownell Talbot helped me to recognize my ability to stretch outside my comfort zone, which I have to do constantly in order to serve the needs of my patients. During my time at BT, I felt free to try new classes and activities ranging from Latin to Cheer to speech, math club and even basketball and track (all of which I loved)!

What advice would you give to current BT students?

Something I've always appreciated about Brownell Talbot is that it is small enough to "make the cut" and join most teams but is also big enough to still be competitive. My advice would be to try out any school club or team you have even a little curiosity about. You never know how much joy you can gain from being a part of a team until you try!

What BT teacher had the biggest impact on you?

This is so tough because I loved all of my teachers. Mr. Jon Mayo (my former science teacher and now father-in-law) has an amazing gift for teaching. He made physics and chemistry so much fun and helped me to see how science also supported my faith. I will also be forever grateful for the investment of time and instruction I received from Coach Jeff Rohrig and Coach Lionel McPhaul!

What's on your bucket list?

I'm looking forward to someday taking my kids to visit Jamaica where my father was born and raised. It's an important piece of who they are.

What is something you learned in the last week?

This week I learned about the Hebrew Alphabet from my oldest kid who loves learning new languages. It's such a joy to see my own kids' love for learning!



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

Sara Geraldine “Gerdi” Heath, ’52

D. January 8, 2023

Sally (Ware) Waters, x’74, Survived by brother Tom, x’79

D. March 29, 2023

Nancee (Peterson) Neely, ’50

D. March 30, 2023

Scott Bowie, ’67, survived by siblings Russ Bowie, ’74; Carol (Bowie) Brandt, ’70; and Joan (Bowie) Brown, ’64; and many other relatives who are Brownell Talbot alumni
D. May 9, 2023

FRIENDS

Juan Vazquez-Bauza, survived by children Nicole Chanlatte, ’12, and Marcel Vazquez-Chanlatte, ’10.
D. December 2, 2022

Vincent Pomerleau, survived by son Chris and daughter-in-law, Shivani Sharma, ’04, and grandchildren, Sanaya Pomerleau, ’36, and Zayden, ’39.
D. December 21, 2022

Gary Glissman, father of the late Michael Glissman, ’22
D. February 22, 2023

Jackie Upham, former preschool assistant teacher. Survived by daughters Noelle, ’87, and Nicole, ’91.
D. March 9, 2023

Sandy Carson, survived by daughter Kayce Carson, ’95
D. March 11, 2023

Clarine Loseske, grandmother to Suzanne Singer, ’07, Emily Singer, ’08, and Sarah Singer, x’12.
D. March 17, 2023

Scott Gibbins, father to Shelby Gibbins, ’17, and husband of Brownell Talbot Early Years teacher, Susi Gibbins
D. March 19, 2023

Dale Conner, grandfather to Conner Dana, ’07, Carly Dana, ’09, and Chloe Dana, ’14
D. April 2023

Kim Hawkins, Survived by son Kim Hawkins, Jr. x’98, and grandchildren Riley Hawkins, ’22, Addison Hawkins, ’27, and Kimbo Hawkins, ’34.
D. April 28, 2023

Mary “Maudie” Connor, former Lower School teacher.
D. May 15, 2023

Lois Hardwood, survived by grandsons Colten Crosby, ’20, and Conner Crosby, ’19.
D. May 26, 2023

NEWS

Sonal (Saxena) Patel, ’95, recently delivered a TEDx Talk focused on the fourth trimester (postpartum). She currently practices medicine in Denver at the company she founded, NayaCare, working to change postpartum medical care. Sonal’s talk can be found at: <https://youtu.be/p8ZjKebeaKY>

Matt Deffenbaugh, ’01, has started a new position as Executive Director Sales & Solutions at GMP Pros®.

Albert Chu, ’02, started a new position as Executive Director, Innovation - Federal Employee Program at Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

Floral designer Tabia Yapp, ’10, and her business Bia Blooms were featured in the May 2023 Better Homes and Gardens magazine. Check out her gorgeous floral arrangements on her website, biablooms.com.

Hillary Vrana, ’08, wed Keenan Gallagher on June 10, 2023.

Talia Simon, ’12, wed Tyler Goodman on June 3, 2023.

Molly Burkley, ’12, wed Chris Murray on June 3, 2023 at BT’s St. Matthias Chapel.

Parker Gottsch, ’17, is beginning her next field season as an Elk Calf Capture Tech with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Her position last field season was as a Wildlife Tech studying the Desert Massasauga Rattlesnake.

Libby Garfoot, ’18, was named Top Performer - Bars for The George Washington University gymnastics team. Garfoot is a senior majoring in international affairs.

Denisse Navarro-Perez, ’18, joined the Valmont team as an Associate Human Resources Generalist.

Eliza Rice, ’19, accepted a junior sales associate position with the Milwaukee Bucks.

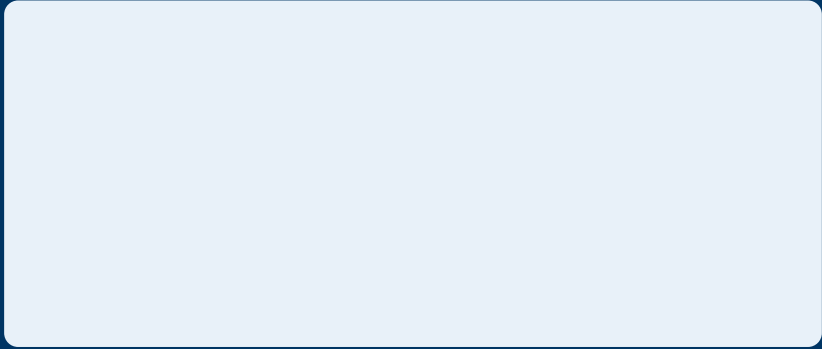
Grayson Towne-Colley, ’20, is completing an internship at the Colosseum in Rome. Grayson is an English/history major at Grinnell College.



Brownell Talbot College Preparatory School
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Omaha, NE 68132

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IT WAS A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENROLL FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!
Space is limited, contact our Enrollment Office today to secure your child's spot!

admissions@brownell.edu

