



Fireside

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



All The World's A Stage
more on page 5

BT's Report Card
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Focus On Fit
more on page 9



Dr. Gibbs (center) with Charlie Cohen, '19, Eliza Rice, '19, Miranda Knofczynski, '19, and Cara Waggoner, '19.

Notes from Worthington Hall

Dear BT Community,

The first semester of this school year has been an inspiring one marked by many celebrations of traditions and progress - the stories in this issue share a glimpse of who we are right now, where we've been, and where we're headed.

At this year's Homecoming, we held our largest Alumni Homecoming Tailgate in recent memory. It also served as Reunion Weekend for the Classes of 1970-1974, providing them many opportunities to reminisce about their days on campus and discuss how the school has changed and stayed the same throughout the years. Read more about Reunion Weekend on pages 21-22.

It brought me great joy to be a part of their celebration and to hear our alumni talk about BT back then. It occurred to me that for every generation of Raiders, what they would consider traditions of the school have probably looked and felt a little different from the generations before. The stories and trends of the time may vary, but inevitably our graduates share

the same fondness for the school and the experiences they had here.

BT will always be a home you can return to. I am inspired and challenged to meet the needs of today's students while holding true to what BT has always been known for:

- Students with integrity and drive - check out BT's student achievement as it compares to state and national pandemic-era trends on pages 7-8.
- Outstanding faculty and staff - learn about two teachers who dreamed big to bring positive change to BT on pages 13-14.
- A community that is resilient and compassionate - read more about Gala 2023 - Wild About BT on page 12.

With appreciation for the many generations of BT Raiders,

Kristi N. Gibbs

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

On the cover: Dr. Gibbs surprised BT alum Teri Deuser, '71, (far right) with the honor of crowning this year's Homecoming Queen, Claire Cenovic, '23. Deuser was BT's very first Homecoming Queen.

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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. Record Turnout at Dundee Day

A huge crowd of Raiders started off the year by walking in the annual Dundee Day parade!

2. Middle School Latin and Spanish Students Face Off in Aeneid

Mr. Palo's seventh grade Latin students and Sra. Rivera's Spanish students took advantage of a beautiful fall day to act out a scene from Vergil's Aeneid. In this scene from Aeneid, book 3, the blind cyclops, Polyphemus, comes to the shore to try and stop Aeneas and the Trojans from escaping the island of Sicily. Since he is blind, he calls for his brothers and sisters to join him in his attempts to stop them.

3. Olympian Ryan Lochte Coaches BT Swimmers

Twelve-time Olympic medalist Ryan Lochte led a sold-out three-day swim clinic at BT in September.

4. Homecoming Was Out of This World

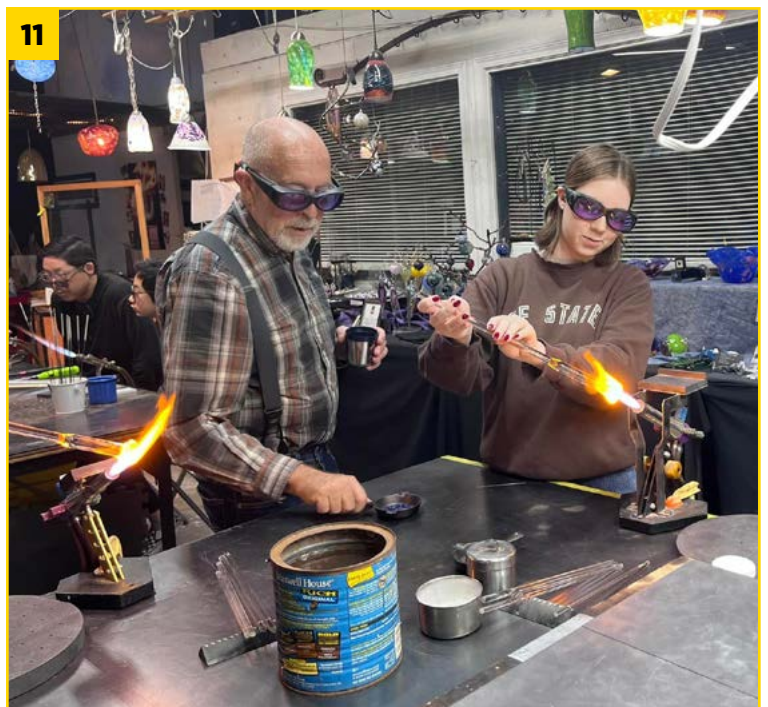
Many would-be astronauts embraced this year's Homecoming spirit day theme of Out of this World!

5. Disney's Descendants

This year's fall musical featured performers from grades 7-12 and a tech crew with grades 5-12 students. They created an exceptional stage show and performed it in front of three sold-out audiences.

6. Serenading Raiders Kicks Off Holiday Season in Dundee

On December 1, BT's Lower School choir, Serenading Raiders, caroled up and down Underwood Ave as the opening act of the annual Lights on Dundee event. BT students also shared their talents via a strings performance at Good Lookin' and offering free face painting to event attendees.



7. United We Walk

Students, families, faculty, and staff volunteered at the first annual United We Walk event hosted by the Tri-Faith Initiative. The focus of the event was to bring the entire Omaha community together to celebrate its racial, religious, and cultural diversity.

8. Mr. Gould Receives Top Honor

Fine Arts Department Chair and music teacher J.R. Gould was named Nebraska Music Education Association Music Educator of the Year.

9. NHS Service Project Teaches Double Lesson

BT's chapter of the National Honor Society visited the Hitchcock Nature Center for a lesson on the unique ecology of the Loess Hills. The group then spent a few hours splitting wood that came from trees cleared as part of efforts to reestablish native ecology in the hills. The wood will be used to heat several sites this winter.

10. EmPower Youth Summit

Gail Hartig, '26, Guinevere Osborn, '25, Fruzsina Roka, '25, Ashley Rivas, '23, Ava Witherspoon, '26, Corinne Van Winkle, '26, Clarisa Marcano, '26, Nya Ping, '26, and Hudson McCafferty, '24, represented BT at the first annual EmPower Youth Summit hosted by The Kim Foundation. They joined high school students from across the Omaha metro to attend a variety of sessions from local experts on mental health, social media, and education with the goal of learning strategies to bring back to their schools to improve wellbeing for all students.

11. Glass Blowing at the Hot Shops

BT's National Art Honor Society hosted a glass blowing experience at the Hot Shops over Thanksgiving break. Students and parents alike were invited to create glass blown paperweights and lampwork pendants.

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

It's been a big year for Brownell Talbot theatre, with the program receiving accolades from various state and national organizations while making its presence known on the international stage. At the Nebraska State Thespian Festival in January, BT's theatre troupe was chosen as Nebraska Thespian's Chapter Select One Act and has been asked to represent Nebraska at The International Thespian Festival 2023. The troupe also achieved Gold Honor Troupe for the second year in a row.

These most recent accomplishments continue the impressive track record that picked up momentum in May. As the 2021-2022 school year wrapped, the school learned that its theatre department had received the Theatre In Our Schools Outstanding Impact Award from the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA), an international organization supporting school theatre students and teachers. Led by veteran theatre director Jenn Morgan, the program also received the Outstanding Impact Award given to programs that excel in raising awareness and advocating for theatre education.

Morgan ensures advocacy is an ongoing underlying theme in theatre education at BT. In addition to successfully petitioning for both the city and state to sign proclamations related to the importance of theatre in schools, students also visited the state capitol, meeting with several legislators to advocate for theatre education.

"One of my favorite experiences with BT's theatre program was when I traveled to Lincoln to talk with Senator Megan Hunt about theatre in our schools. I am very interested in government, so having this opportunity to engage in the legislative process was incredible," Kathryn Picard, '25, said.

"The ways in which BT theatre has impacted my life are too many to name," said Guy Shipley, '24. "I've become so much more confident in myself as an actor and a person and gotten the opportunity to share what I've learned and lead younger students. I've been able to meet new people through the International Thespian Society who've also strengthened my abilities."

Morgan recently announced that BT will be participating in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in summer 2024, giving students even more opportunities to grow and learn. Twenty-one students, along with parent chaperones, faculty, and staff will journey to Scotland for the three-week celebration of arts and culture. BT was invited to perform an original play at the festival and will also have the opportunity to attend other performances and learn more about theatre.

Beginning this spring, the students will workshop the original play, cast it, design their own packable costumes and set, and be ready to perform by summer 2024.

"I'm looking forward to taking something written by BT students and turning it into a full fledged performance," said Ava Larson Gallegos, '25. "It's a really wonderful process to be a part of."

Before the students travel to Edinburgh, they will have a chance to attend master classes at the Globe and Royal Shakespeare Company in London as well as attend a show in the West End.

"A trip like this is not just about performing but experiencing different cultures and learning about themselves as thespians and global citizens," said Morgan.



To top off BT's winning weekend at Nebraska State Thespian Festival, theatre teacher Jenn Morgan was named Nebraska Thespian Teacher of the Year.



Championing Theatre in Education

Head of School Kristi N. Gibbs, Ed.D., was selected to receive the 2022 National Administrator's Award, which recognizes outstanding school administrators who have demonstrated exemplary support for educational theatre, from the International Thespian Society. Morgan noted her appreciation of Dr. Gibbs, who she says recognizes the importance theatre plays in a broader education. Dr. Gibbs was one of only three administrators worldwide to receive this honor.



BT'S REPORT CARD

This fall, families and schools across the country gained insights into how the pandemic has impacted students when the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) released its assessment data, often called the nation's report card, which showed declines in math and reading across multiple age groups. Nebraska Department of Education's assessment data and Nebraska's average ACT score, which dropped to its lowest level in at least 10 years, have since reinforced trends identified in the NAEP results.

Some have wondered, as these results became headline news, how BT students have fared over the past three years. When comparing assessment data, it is important to note that there are differences - specifically in terms of size and demographics - between learning communities that factor into how progress is defined. At Brownell Talbot the academic bar and expectations of progress and achievement are high. The assessment data is one way in which BT measures how it delivers on its mission to know, inspire, and challenge every student, heart, and mind and can be useful for families in making informed decisions about their children's education.

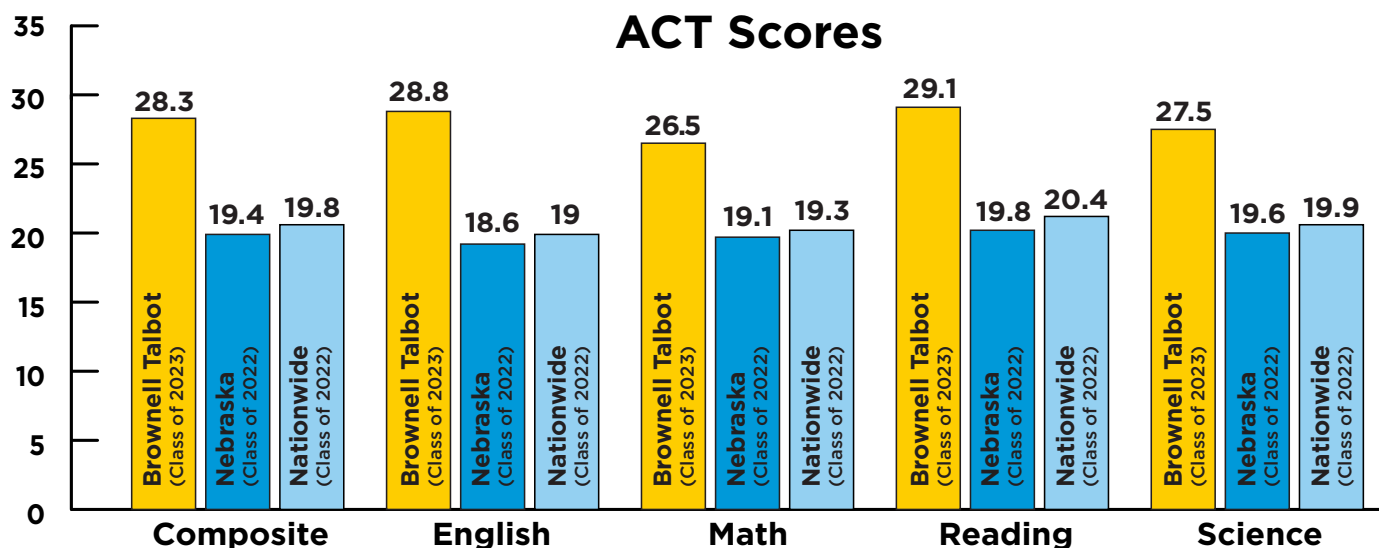
BT's Report Card

BT students in grades 4 and 8 (the grades in

which NAEP also tests) demonstrated proficiency at 98% or above in math and reading. Data from BT's testing tool, Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), shows that not only are our students proficient, but an average of 85% of our Lower School students are scoring at or above the 60th percentile, which indicates they are on track for college success. This is on par or better than BT's scores before the pandemic. This success carries on through Middle and Upper School. In comparing BT's ACT scores to the state and national averages, BT students score significantly higher.

The highest possible score on the ACT college entrance exam, which measures readiness in English, reading, math, and science, is 36.

Another measure in Upper School is advanced placement exams. At BT, all students who enroll in an AP class must take the AP exam. At other schools, students may take the class but opt out of taking the exam. Earning a score of three or better oftentimes allows a student to skip general education courses at their chosen college or university. In 2022, 82% of students taking AP courses at BT scored a 3+ on their exams. BT's Class of 2023 will graduate with 100% of its students having taken at least one AP course.



Standardized test statistics include scores through 7/2022 test dates. Due to COVID-19, many students who may have otherwise retested were only able to test one time or not at all.



If test scores were the only way BT measured student achievement and its own success in delivering a rigorous academic experience, the story would end here. At BT, the faculty and staff have taken up the challenge of redefining rigor, moving away from the idea that more or harder is better. This shift in mindset looks different at each stage of development - sometimes the focus is on challenging academics, sometimes it is on challenging social development and gaining independence and responsibility.

This also means that the outcomes have begun to look different. Every student graduates BT and is accepted into a four-year college or university. Regardless of whether they choose to attend, their success is no longer solely measured by their test scores or college acceptances. It is determined by the level of confidence they have in the abilities BT has defined in its Portrait of a Graduate that speak to:

- Understanding one's own identity and values.
- Competency to work across lines of cultural difference.
- Skills to negotiate and build relationships in any context.
- Decision-making, solving problems, and taking appropriate risks.
- Empathy and concern for others.
- Ability and willingness to advocate for oneself and others.

BT's adoption of the Portrait of a Graduate is a demonstration of its commitment to receiving top marks in academics and in producing compassionate learners empowered and determined to reach their unique potential and positively impact the world.

FOCUS ON FIT

Although outcomes are important, Brownell Talbot's College Counseling Department knows that each student's success in college depends on their ability to look beyond college ranking lists and embark on a highly individualized process of self discovery, paired with an exploration of the full landscape of colleges.

BT's approach lays the foundation for students to build a plan focused on college fit. Students apply to colleges that meet their individual needs so that they are confident in their decision - one that will shape their next four years of college and beyond.

Grade 8

COURSE: KNOWING YOURSELF

College and career exploration. Foundational learning about college life and the associated costs.

CHARTING THE COURSE

Counselors share with parents big picture insights and provide a detailed overview of BT's college counseling process.

FIELD TRIP VISIT

Small college experience to ease students into being on a college campus.

Grade 9

COURSE: TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

Focus is on getting students involved in activities and the community to help broaden their understanding of opportunities beyond high school; teaching them how to showcase their high school success; prepping for standardized tests; and ensuring they understand the importance of their transcript.

Transcripts tell a story about the student's growth and interests, the grades they earn, their progress, and how they navigate a school setting. It's okay to struggle academically during freshman year as long as the student shows growth.

1:1 WITH COUNSELOR

The counselor gets to know each student and helps them get plugged into high school life right away, connecting them to resources to support their transition to high school.

COLLEGE RESEARCH

Students are introduced to Scoir, BT's college research platform and use it to start initial college research based on their academic, extracurricular, and social interests.

PARENT NIGHT

Information session to help parents understand how they can help their high school student find success and get a bird's eye view of the upcoming college process.

TEST PREP

Pre-ACT Testing

Grade 10

COURSE: MAJORS AND CAREERS

Students are given exposure to a wide spectrum of career paths through career inventories and tools that measure aptitudes and skills.

PARENT NIGHT

Help parents support their students in exploring academic interests in and outside BT through a deep dive into course selection and enrichment.

SPEAKER SERIES

Speakers highlight the windy path they took to get to their present position. They share ways in which they learned from failure and applied that learning.

Exposure to high-achieving adults who are willing to share the ups and downs of their own academic and professional journeys helps students reflect on their own expectations and reshape their definition of success.

COLLEGE RESEARCH

Students use Scoir to add colleges to their list that align with majors and career interests they have identified within their college counseling class.

TEST PREP

PSAT (fall); PreACT (spring)

FIELD TRIP VISIT

Visit to a large public university.

If your family travels during summer vacation, consider visiting nearby college campuses!

Colleges use course selection as a key indicator of each student's academic interests. BT counselors work closely with students and families to make sure they are making future-focused class choices during registration each year.

Grade 11

Grade 12

COURSE: COLLEGE FIT

Students evaluate schools to determine if the social dynamics and academic, extracurricular, social, and financial fit align with their needs.

The price to attend any college varies greatly by student. Therefore, BT prioritizes educating families about the costs related to each college choice for their child and the ways in which families can fund it.

PARENT NIGHT

Preparation and timeline for the application process.

COLLEGE RESEARCH

Students use Scoir to narrow in on schools to apply to based on factors they have identified are important in a good fit school.

COLLEGE KICKSTART

Students run their college list through the College Kickstart platform, which indicates which schools are reach, target, or likely schools based on each student's personal academic metrics (GPA and test scores). This platform also gives a wealth of information about the generosity of schools with merit scholarships and need-based aid, in addition to providing application timeline strategy advice based on their research-based algorithms.

Admissions rates are much lower today than they were 20 years ago. BT's college list strategy helps recalibrate expectations around current acceptance rates.

ONGOING 1:1 WITH COUNSELOR

Scheduled time for fine tuning each student's growing list of schools and multiple reviews of the student's college essay and application.

TEST PREP

PSAT, which serves as the National Merit Scholarship Qualification Test

FIELD TRIP VISIT

Visit to a medium-sized private university.

FAMILY MEETING WITH COUNSELOR

Discuss the student's class schedule, grades, senior year plan, college list, and admission testing plan. This meeting is an opportunity to determine priorities of the family and student and how they want to approach the application process.

COLLEGE APPLICATION AND ESSAY

Students can end junior year with their application and essay done, allowing them to enter senior year unencumbered by the weight of completing these highly critical tasks.

PARENT NIGHT

A detailed roadmap for the school year ahead including protocols and organizational structures for the college application process.

1:1 WITH COUNSELOR

Throughout the fall semester students meet with their counselor to help them organize their priorities against deadlines. This is also a space dedicated to reading through and submitting applications.

Counselors sit with students as they complete the online applications, helping to catch any final mistakes and providing emotional support as the student clicks submit.

TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

BT teachers are able to write very personal and compelling recommendations based on their relationship and knowledge of a students' individual contributions to their classroom and BT community.

EARLY APPLICATION DEADLINES

Faculty are on alert, recognizing that October and November may be extra stressful for students as they submit applications for early college program deadlines.

DECEMBER EARLY DECISIONS

BT's goal is for students to have all applications done before the last day of first semester to ensure they are able to relax and enjoy winter break.

REGULAR DECISION BEGINS IN EARLY JANUARY

Pro tip: Don't use agents. *While they can offer generic advice, they don't see the whole application and don't know the student the way in which BT's college counselors do.*

ADULTING 101

Students choose the topics that this class will cover. Past topics have included financial planning, academic transition to college, tips for connecting with professors, dorm room cooking, learning how to do laundry, and self defense.

ALUMNI PANEL

BT alumni give their unfiltered insights into life after high school.

1:1 WITH COUNSELOR

Individual meetings with the counselor continue throughout the spring semester to support the student and their family in making their final choice of school, paying the deposit, and ensuring transcripts are in a good place. The counselors also provide support and guidance to students who are placed on waitlists or are seeking deferrals.

MAY 1 DEPOSITS DUE

CELEBRATE!

BT's seniors decide as a class how they want their college decisions to be celebrated, so it looks a little different every year.

On average, 50 colleges and universities make visits to BT each year to meet with students. Students have an opportunity to ask questions about the school, the application process, and the benefits of attending.

"BT is an investment that pays off when it comes time to fund college."

BROWNELL TALBOT IS A SCHOOL UNLIKE ANY OTHER.

The **BT Fund** is Brownell Talbot's annual giving program, the school's most important fundraising effort. Tuition alone cannot fund everything, and The BT Fund bridges the gap between tuition and the cost to educate each child. The gap at BT is \$3,500 per student.

Because of
The BT Fund,
the school is
empowered to:

BT FUND

- Attract and retain talented, world class faculty and staff.
- Expand health and wellness resources to support each student's social emotional and physical well-being.
- Offer student programming in the areas of world language, visual arts, vocal and instrumental music, and drama.
- Create opportunities in athletics and activities for students at all levels.
- Strengthen student programming to expand our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.



How do YOU fit in?

We invite you to join us as we celebrate our school's unique community by participating in The BT Fund. Your gift has a direct and lasting impact on our school year and the many opportunities afforded to all BT students. We simply wouldn't be BT without you.

Make your 100% tax-deductible gift at brownell.edu/BTfund today!

SUPPORTING OUR
MISSION





BROWNELL TALBOT GALA MAY 12 AND MAY 13

GALA LEADERSHIP

Honorary Chairs

The Faculty and Staff of Brownell Talbot

Gala Chairs

Michele Aizenberg Ansari and Shervin Ansari
Gale Etherton and Fedja Rochling

STEERING COMMITTEE

Advertising

Ashley DuBois

Decorations

Kaleena Biggerstaff, Patra Pakieser,
and Casie Schlueter

Display

Natalia Atchley

Exceptional Events

Cari (Stinn) Iqbal, '06, Annie Linberg, '04,
and Shivani Sharma, '04

Family Baskets

Becky & Dan Dougherty, Bridget Hamill,
and Jamie Ryan

Live Auction

Megan Belcher, Laura Crosby,
and Debbie Wood

Mailings & Promotions

Marion Dawber

Raffle

Valerie and Casey Garrigan

Silent Auction

Kaleena Biggerstaff, Stephanie Graham,
and Megan Harding

Sponsorships & Underwriting

Fatima Basith, Rhonda Bishop,
and Angeline Larson

Student Projects

Annie Daugherty



Brownell Talbot has long stood for educational excellence; faculty at the top of their field; outstanding, globally focused academics; superior college placements; and robust athletics, activities, and arts programs. With growing enrollment and transformational projects on the horizon, it's an exciting time to be a Raider.

This year's gala theme is a tribute to everything we love about Brownell Talbot. From our students to our faculty and staff to our community, we are so proud of what's happening here and we know you are too.

Simply put - we are Wild About BT!

Wild About BT will welcome guests to a two-day gala event: a safari-chic soirée on Friday evening at the Cottonwood Hotel and an adults-only carnival on Saturday at Brownell Talbot. A two-day gala weekend ensures every member of the BT community has the opportunity to attend, participate, and support the school in a memorable and meaningful way. Guided by the leadership of chairs Michele Aizenberg Ansari and Shervin Ansari (parents to Ava, '33, and Cyrus, '33) and Gale Etherton and Fedja Rochling (parents to Cillian, '26, Ciaran, '20, and Ferris Li, '20), as well as a robust steering committee made up of dedicated parent volunteers, planning is underway for what is sure to be a wildly successful gala!



Etherton Rochling Family



Aizenberg Ansari Family



Honorary Chairs

Every year Brownell Talbot has the opportunity to spotlight the legacy and lasting influence of members of the BT community by naming them gala Honorary Chairs. Families are recognized as Honorary Chairs for their leadership, commitment, and generosity of spirit. Throughout the last four decades, BT has spotlighted 40 different families who have had a tremendous impact on the school. Gala 2023 will honor and spotlight a very deserving group: the faculty and staff of Brownell Talbot.

For the last 159 years, exceptional and dedicated faculty and staff have educated and nurtured BT students. Brownell Talbot faculty and staff demonstrate an unparalleled commitment to every student, every mind, and every heart. They are the beating heart of our school community and we look forward to celebrating this group of people in many meaningful ways throughout the year.

The weekend of May 12 and 13 promises to be full of adventure, exploration, and reflection as we go WILD for BT!

Visit brownell.edu/gala
for more details.

Faculty **DREAMS BIG** for Students

Last spring, the Shikhar and Kristin Saxena Family Foundation surprised faculty and staff with an incredible opportunity to dream big. As CFO and CEO, respectively, as well as BT parents, Shikhar, x'99, and Kristin Saxena invited faculty and staff to pitch their ideas on how to improve BT without the limits often invoked because of funding issues, pledging \$100,000 to the chosen proposals.

“We were inspired to offer this opportunity because we have witnessed firsthand the dedication and personal investment BT faculty and staff put into educating and caring for our kids every day,” said Kristin. “We were certain that they had ideas about how they could do even more for our kids but understood that the school must sometimes be conservative with their budget. Our hope was that we could help a couple deserving educators bring those dreams to reality.”

It was an incredible opportunity, and faculty and staff jumped at the chance to turn big dreams into opportunities for students. Out of the

many proposals written, ultimately, two ideas received funding.

Connecting BT’s Musicians with Area Professionals

Music teacher Jules DeSalvo wanted to challenge students in a new way - by pairing them with professional musicians in the Omaha area. The goal of DeSalvo’s proposal was to enhance students’ personal relationships with their instruments and professional musicians. The instructors come from all over Omaha, including the Omaha Symphony, University of Nebraska-Omaha and the Omaha Conservatory of Music. Some are even YouTube stars.

While being proficient in most instruments, DeSalvo admits he’s not an expert in all.

“These experts are able to give students information they would not otherwise have access to that enables them to get their instruments to do what they want them to do.”



“The music program at BT allows me to be a part of band and orchestra at the same time. This opportunity gives me skills and appreciation for different genres and aspects of music. The music program challenges me not only to step out of my comfort zone, but to better myself every rehearsal and performance.”

- Avery Nichols, '26

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Currently there are 38 students participating in the program and already DeSalvo is seeing the benefits.

“For some of these students, this is their first experience with private lessons, and already I have heard a change in their playing. It has made them way more confident.”

The lessons don’t just allow for students to learn, it allows them to see what a future as a musician could be like.

“Getting these students around musicians of this caliber shows them what’s possible - it’s eye opening for them. Most importantly, this program has created space for students to delve into their love of music. I have seen a lot of students fall in love with instruments.”

Although very different in scope and outcomes, DeSalvo and Beaner’s big ideas have both improved BT’s student experience and strengthened how the school delivers on it’s mission to know, inspire, and challenge every student.

Enhanced Mental Health Support

School counselor Jamie Beaner wanted to provide more capacity for students to receive mental health support on campus.

“Our students are super studious and ‘on’ all the time. Our job is to help them de-stress,” said Beaner.

Through the Dream Big Grant, BT now offers therapy services provided by Arbor Family Counseling on BT’s campus with no cost to patients. Therapists see students of all ages as well as faculty and staff. Patients can sign up online (parents/guardians can sign up their younger children) and many patients who take advantage of this service are those who have expressed hesitation in taking advantage of telehealth services or wouldn’t have the means to go to an outside provider’s office.

Therapists are on-site three times a week and see patients in varying capacities. Some patients come in every week, others just need a one-time appointment.

Additionally, Beaner was able to use some of the grant money to invest in calming resources like comfortable seating, warm lighting, and a fidget center, filled with many ways in which one could occupy their hands in moments of frustration, anxiety, or sadness.

Beaner hopes this is just the beginning of the development of mental health resources for the school.

“We’re working really hard to create a culture that embraces mental health. It’s okay to not be okay. If you have a mental health issue, please take advantage of these services.”

During the fall semester, 51 individuals have utilized BT’s on-campus therapy services with a total of 148 attended appointments.

Early Years - Grade 6

**22 students
71 total appointments**

Grades 7-12

**19 students
49 total appointments**

Faculty and Staff

**10 participants
31 total appointments**



Members of Butterfield House relax in the calming space.

**SUPPORTING OUR
MISSION**

BT'S LEGACY



FRONT ROW

Kimbo Hawkins, '34 (Kim, x'98, and Amy Hawkins)
Isaiah Bradford, '34 (Erica [Aaron], '97, and Steffon Bradford)
Andrew Massih, '33 (John, x'98, and Anne Massih)
Victoria Molai, '33 (Annie Linberg, '04, and Nabil Molai)
Khalil Iqbal, '33 (Cari [Stinn], '06, and Zahid Iqbal)
LillyAnna Dingman, '34 (Heidi Venteicher Dingman, '94,
and Richard Dingman)
Julia Kroupa, '34 (Mike, '03, and Molly Kroupa)

SECOND ROW

Sai Saxena, '31 (Shikhar, x'99, and Kristin Saxena)
Ben Lanum, '31 (Nicole [Rossi], '98, and Wade Lanum)
Ansel Marsh, '35 (Krystin [Filipi], x'96, and Joel Marsh)
Sanaya Pomerleau, '36 (Shivani Sharma, '04, and Chris Pomerleau)
Alex Kroupa, '37 (Mike, '03, and Molly Kroupa)
Leila Iqbal, '35 (Cari [Stinn], '06, and Zahid Iqbal)
Gustavo Correa, '25 (Christian, '04, and Lauren Correa)
Lia Saxena, '33 (Shikhar, x'99, and Kristin Saxena)
Olivia Bradford, '31 (Erica [Aaron], '97, and Steffon Bradford)
Jake Massih, '31 (John, x'98, and Anne Massih)

STUDENTS



THIRD ROW

Shaan Saxena, '29 (Shikhar, x'99, and Kristin Saxena)
Noli Marsh, '28 (Krystin [Filipi], x'96, and Joel Marsh)
Addi Hawkins, '27 (Kim, x'98, and Amy Hawkins)
Leah Hamilton, '28 (Rebecca Hamilton, x'90)
Eva Cohen, '26 (Mike, '87, and Karen Cohen)
Corbett Lanum, '26 (Nicole [Rossi], '98, and Wade Lanum)
Miranda Clark, '29 (David, x'74, and Kate Clark)
Ava Witherspoon, '26 (Pat Witherspoon, '79)

FOURTH ROW

Dylan Witherspoon, '25 (Pat Witherspoon, '79)
Nathan Brown, '23 (Chuck, x'95, and Danielle Brown)
Dexter Clark, '26 (David, x'74, and Kate Clark)

Jack Cohen, '23 (Mike, '87, and Karen Cohen)
Dylan Scott, '23 (W. David, '81, and Lori Scott)
Amelia Bell, '25 (Belinda Beavers, '87, and Shelby Bell)

NOT PICTURED

Britain Brooks, '27 (Michael, '99, and Andi Brooks)
Jonathan Massey, '23 (Peter, '81, and Michelle Massey)
Stella Millard-Jones, '38 (Jennifer Jones, '06, and Alicia Millard)
Isabella Molai, '35 (Annie Linberg, '04, and Nabil Molai)
Sonu Saxena, '27 (Shikhar, x'99, and Kristin Saxena)



ALUMNI *on Campus*



July

1 Although not on BT's campus, Brownell Talbot students, while on a whirlwind trip to Washington, D.C., ran into Noah Randolph, '20, at the Air & Space Museum. Noah was in D.C. for an internship and decided to check out the hangar on his day off!

2 Camp Discovery's production of *Aladdin Kids* would not have been possible without the leadership of Sean Gardner, '17, as technical director. Sean's ability to mentor and inspire even the youngest of thespians (this show had 110 of them, some as young as kindergarten) is remarkable.

August

3 Mrs. Harms and Mr. Harrell welcomed Emma Kuhn, '19, back to campus who hadn't visited since her graduation.

September

4 Brett Fowler, '02, was home for a weekend this fall and came by to see former faculty and staff and the campus. Fowler is pictured with Director of Facilities and Campus Safety Joe Rotert.

1970-1974 Reunion

5 Alumni from the classes of 1970-1974 gathered on campus for a reunion during BT's homecoming. They kicked off the reunion at the Alumni Homecoming Tailgate. See more pictures from the reunion on page 21.

Alumni Homecoming Tailgate

6 The annual Alumni Homecoming Tailgate brings alumni and friends from all years back to campus to reconnect with each other while cheering on the Raiders!

October

7 Attending the annual Grandparents and Special Friends Day program were current parents/alumni: Jennifer Jones, '06, and special friend and past BT parent Dr. Victoria Maclin, Annie Linberg, '04, and her mother Sharon Linberg, and Dr. Arun Sharma and his daughter Shivani Sharma, '04.

There were a number of alumni events during the first half of the school year. As an alum, you are always welcome to drop by and say hi! Contact the BT team at hello@brownell.edu to schedule a visit!



November

8 Classmates Michelle (Weinberg) Heim, '89, and Coby Mitchell, '89, stopped by campus over the Thanksgiving holiday to say hello!

9 Artist and BT alum, Conrad Hinz, '86, stopped by campus and connected with BT's Middle and Upper School art teacher Kat Anderson to see all the amazing work students are doing in art classes.

Hardwood Hustle

10 The Hardwood Hustle is such a fun-filled event, bringing alumni of all ages back to campus for basketball and, new this year, volleyball! Cheering on the action were current BT students, fellow alums, and alumni families, including their children and grandparents.

December

SENIOR CHAPEL

11 Lori, Dylan, '23, and David Scott, '81

12 Fatima Basith and Rayaan, '23, Pirezada, and Lukmaan, '17, Sattar

13 Peter, '81, and Michelle Massey

Holiday Program

14 As is tradition, alumni were invited to join Upper School choir to sing Carol of the Bells at the Holiday Program. Pictured: David Scott, '81, Henrik Nelson, '22, Charlotte Hedican, '15, Kaitlyn Scott, '21, and Madison Scott, '18.

Alumni Spotlight

Jennifer Jones, Class of 2006

I am currently the CEO/owner of Scrap Central, Inc., a metal recycling company with \$50 million+ in gross sales that employs more than 30 employees. Scrap Central provides metal recycling services to the general public, commercial, and industrial businesses.

How did you get into metal recycling?

I was first introduced to the metal recycling industry through my mother, Sheila Jones, who started our company in 2001. She was the visionary who saw the potential and need for a centrally located recycling facility in Omaha. Growing up, I would work at Scrap Central on weekends and during the summers. My mom always had the hope that one day after I graduated college, we would work together to run the business. However, after a tough battle with cancer, she passed away in May of 2011. Upon her passing, I inherited the business at the age of 23 and began building on the foundation she had started.

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

BT helped instill and encourage my competitive spirit and ambitions - the environment at BT allowed me to really blossom and thrive. The faculty also did a great job recognizing each student's individual strengths (and weaknesses) and helped curate curriculum and teaching methods to best suit each student's needs. The strong math and science curriculum BT had was also a great fit for my career path, which is heavily focused in math in particular.

What advice would you give to current BT students?

Work on time management and try not to procrastinate too much. I know that time management is one of the hardest skills to implement in daily routines, but it is so important the busier you get. I remember pulling all-nighters and staying up until 2:00 am in the morning, completing an essay that I had known about for weeks. Looking back, I now realize it created a lot of unnecessary stress.

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

Ms. Jackie Byers was one of the most influential and inspirational teachers I had at Brownell Talbot. Not only was she one of the kindest and most caring teachers I've ever met, but her passion for English and literature was truly contagious. She always came to class with the biggest and warmest smile on her face and truly made each student feel special and welcome in her class.

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

Adele! My wife and I are totally obsessed with her. I would definitely request a private concert and put her on the spot to sing for us. We actually are going to see her in Las Vegas twice because we are such huge fans!

Last book you read?

Well, we read my three-year-old daughter, Stella, '38, two books before bed every night. Last night it was my turn to read her one of her favorites, *Good Night Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown.

What is something you learned in the last week?

I immersed myself in the inner workings of a variable-frequency drive, which powers the electric motor on our wire chopping machine. We were having some production issues due to a faulty VFD, so our on-site electrical engineer gave me a tutorial.

During the month of December, BT's Class of 2024 partnered with Scrap Central to host a holiday lights drive. The BT community and larger Omaha community were encouraged to drop off old holiday lights to be recycled. All proceeds of the drive were donated to the Dundee-Memorial Park Association.

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.

NEWS

Former faculty members **Dave and Patty Brown** have moved to Tucson, Arizona, and plan to return in the summer to visit friends and BT!

Bryan Carmody, '85, narrated his first audiobook in July 2022. *On Distant Service: The Life of the First U.S. Foreign Service Officer to be Assassinated* was written by his former BT English teacher, Susan M. Stein. Bryan is a professional voice over actor and audio producer based in Chicago. His website is bryancarmody.com. The book is distributed through numerous retailers including Audiobooks, Google Play, Nook, and Walmart/Kobo.

JuliAnn (Goslee) Burkhardt, '03, was named chief strategy officer for global investment banking at Bank of America Corporation in September 2022.

Gabriela Aoun Angueira, '04, recently started a new position as a climate solutions writer at Grist.

Dr. Meaghan Bartels, '09, and her husband Weston, welcomed Josephine Mae Williams to their family in September 2022.

Grace Bartels, '12, wed Josh Seiler on October 8, 2022.

Alison Brockman, '13, graduated in May 2022 from Harvard Law School where she was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. She is currently working at the firm Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz.

Jessica Curry, '14, and Christopher Worden were married on July 16, 2022, in BT's St. Matthias Chapel.

Wellesley Michael, '14, has taken a new position as the digital director of the House Democratic Caucus.

Kevin Henry, '14, is working as a technical lead in software engineering at Workday.

Mercedes Kent, '14, graduated from Lake Erie College of Medicine in May 2022, where she received the Ronald A. Esper and Kathleen Esper Award. Many were able to attend the ceremony including her twin Austin Kent, '14, mother Annamarie Flowers (former first and second grade teacher), and father Bob. After a celebratory trip to Yosemite National Park, Mercedes and her partner Jackson moved to Lansing, Michigan where she is training as a urologic surgeon. "The learning curve into residency has been steep. I have immense gratitude for my journey thus far and the village that has helped me along the way."

Jessica Puetz, '14, graduated cum laude from Marquette University Law School where she served as associate editor for the *Marquette Law Review*, was a Jenkins Honors Moot Court competitor, and a member of the Association for Women Lawyers, as well as provided pro bono work for Legal Action of Wisconsin's various programs. She is currently working for Davis & Kuelthau on their commercial litigation team.

Ally Washka, '14, is a program manager at Interos.ai.

Libby Garfoot, '18, was named Scholastic All-American for the 2021-2022 school year. Garfoot is a junior at the George Washington University, competing in gymnastics and studying international affairs.

Sara Jiang, '18, is attending Carnegie Mellon University for a Master of Science in Computational Finance.

Camille Kotouc, '22, is attending Harvard University where she is a member of the cheerleading team.

Jack Cenovic, '22, recently spoke about student perspectives on computer science education at the closing plenary session of CSEdCon, The Global CS Education Conference.

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

Victoria "Vicky" (Cornish) Adams, '54
D. September 5, 2019

Carol "Kay" (McCallum) Smith, '54
D. July 7, 2022

Donna (Owen) Rahel, x'53
D. August 18, 2022

Jean (Allan) Willis, '49
D. September 18, 2022

Sharon "Shari" (Hall) Thebeaud, '54
D. October 15, 2022

FRIENDS

Jarold Kohll, D. August 1, 2022, father to Jason Kohll, '97

David Rismiller, D. August 22, 2022, Grandfather to Charlotte, '15, Adam, '17, and Theo Hedican, '26.

Howard Kjeldgaard, D. August 29, 2022, father to Chris Kjeldgaard, '18

Esther Bender, D. September 25, 2022, Mother to Kristen (Sung) Cho, '97, and retired BT third and fourth grade teacher

Barbara Frohman, D. October 7, 2022, mother to Margo (Frohman) Parsow, '72, and grandmother to Charles, x'09, and Aaron, '07

Beverly Sibbernsen, D. October 11, 2022, mother to Michael Sibbernsen, '87

Dick Bergstrom, D. October 14, 2022, Grandfather to Kyra, '20, Briley, '23, Rafe, '28, and Vail George, '30

Bob Brown, D. October 15, 2022, father to Tracey Brown, '89, Suzanne Brown, '92, Kristina (Brown) Vakoc, '02, father-in-law to Ken Vakoc, '02 and grandfather to Cheyenne Hanson, '16.

Ann Mactier, D. November 11, 2022, mother to Jan (Mactier) Moriarty, '68, and grandmother to Sheila Moriarty, '08, and Allan (Mac) Moriarty, x'07.

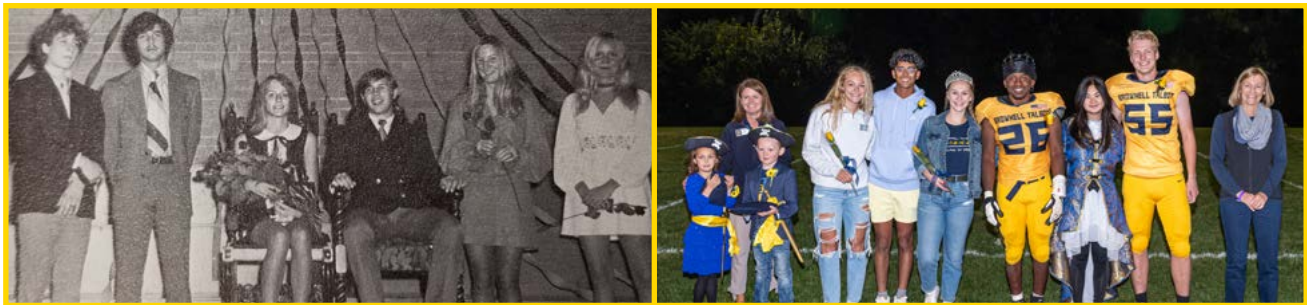
Tom Daly, D. November 28, 2022, grandfather to Sy Lim, '19, and Simon Lim, '25

1970-1974 REUNION WEEKEND

WELCOME BACK

There's no place like home! BT welcomed alumni from the Classes of 1970-1974 to campus for their reunion during Homecoming Week 2022.

"There was no decision whether or not to attend. The decision was when do I leave home to get to Omaha on time!" - Jan Torrey Leonard, '71.



At this year's Homecoming coronation, BT surprised BT's first Homecoming Queen, Teri Deuser, '71, with the opportunity to crown this year's queen, Claire Cenovic, '23.

"The highlight of the reunion weekend for me was reconnecting with classmates who I hadn't seen for many years. Also, being asked to crown this year's homecoming queen was surreal."

-Teri Deuser, '71



Reunion attendees gathered for a tour of campus. Lynn Deuser, '72, shared, "The tour of campus was in some ways achingly familiar (St. Matthias Chapel, the auditorium, and the dining area) and stunningly modern and unrecognizable (like the fact there is a swimming pool, computer facilities, and new gym)."



On Friday evening, members of the Classes of 1970-1974 joined other alumni at the annual Alumni Homecoming Tailgate. They enjoyed reconnecting with each other, fellow alums from other classes, and even a few former teachers! April (Kirkpatrick) Seaman, '70, shared that a highlight of the reunion weekend was “seeing schoolmates after 50 years and ‘seeing’ them as they were in the 60’s and 70’s.”



We had excellent teachers who always challenged us and, at the same time, recognized our generation’s changing political and cultural beliefs. I feel so lucky to have been in such a progressive high school in the late 60’s and early 70’s and for the chance to participate in a service project in our senior year. I spent my weeks in a special education school, and that is what led me to become a special education teacher and, later, a school counselor.”

-Lynn Deuser, '72



While on the campus tour, the group stopped in the Fireside Room to look through their yearbooks.

“This reunion gave me an opportunity to reconnect with people who were vitally important to me throughout my primary and secondary education: BT was my whole world for over 10 years, and I knew most of the students and their families in deeply significant ways.”

-Lynn Deuser, '72



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