

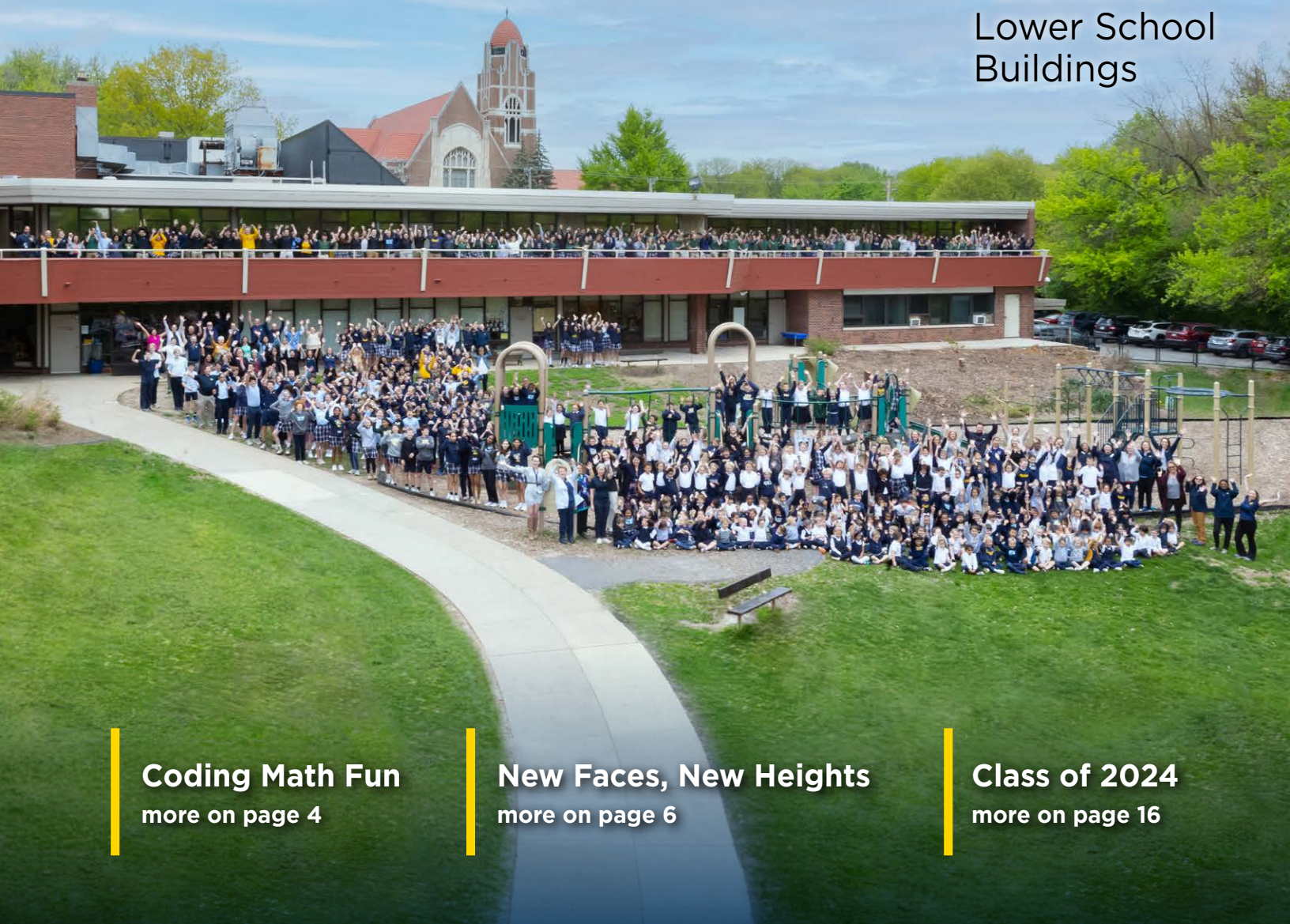


Fireside

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

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Farewell to
Lower School
Buildings



Coding Math Fun
more on page 4

New Faces, New Heights
more on page 6

Class of 2024
more on page 16



Notes from Worthington Hall

Dear BT Community,

Welcome to the latest issue of *Fireside* magazine, where we showcase the innovative spirit that continues to define Brownell Talbot. This edition is a testament to the creativity and dedication of our students, the expertise of our faculty, and the unwavering support of our community - all working together to prepare our students to make a positive impact on the world.

At BT, we pride ourselves on blending our rich tradition of excellence with a commitment to constant growth and improvement. This ethos is at the heart of what it means to be a BT graduate and drives our daily mission.

Within these pages, you'll find inspiring stories that exemplify our forward-thinking approach, including: Upper School students in Multivariable Calculus creating tools for future math students, alumni making significant contributions to civic life in Omaha, and the myriad lines of inquiry pursued by our Lower School students this year, plus much more.

Perhaps most excitingly, we're on the cusp of a transformative moment in BT's history - the creation of a new, innovative Lower School building as part of the Building Together campus transformation project. As we prepare for this next chapter, we've taken time to honor the legacy and learning that has taken place in our existing Lower School building (page 8).

This is truly an exciting time at Brownell Talbot. I invite you to enjoy the stories in this issue and consider how you might be part of our journey forward. Your involvement and support are crucial as we bring the next iteration of our campus to life.

We're thrilled to have you with us on this adventure!

Warmly,

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

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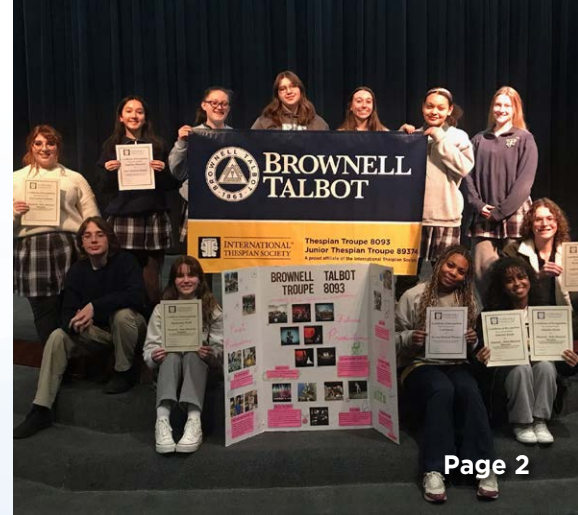
Fireside is published for alumni, families, and friends of Brownell Talbot College Preparatory School. Send story ideas and comments to Brownell Talbot, attn: Megan Hunter, 400 N. Happy Hollow Blvd., Omaha, NE 68132; email megan.hunter@brownell.edu.

Editor: Megan Hunter

Contributing Writers: Alise Guzman, Megan Hunter, Renae Mackender, and Melissa Rider

Designer: Tony McGowan

Photographers: Megan Hunter, Marc Longbrake, Tony McGowan, and Casie Schlueter.



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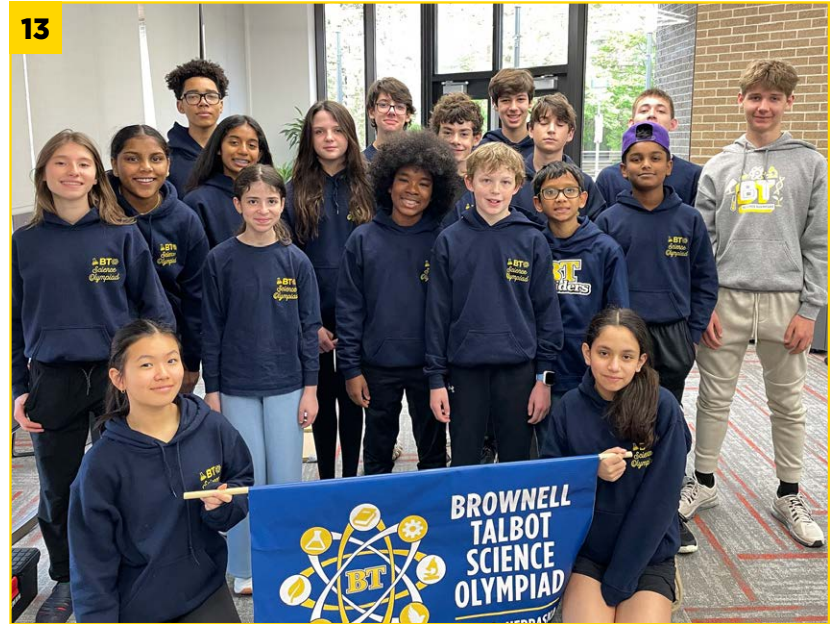
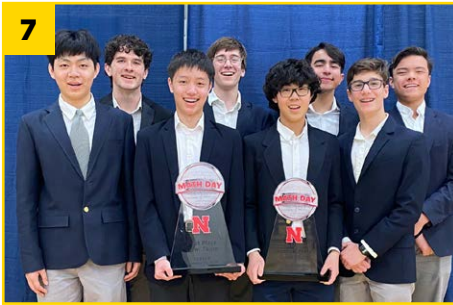


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WHAT'S HAPPENING — ON CAMPUS? —



1. BT's cheerleading team were State Runners-up in C2 Gameday and C2 Traditional at the State championships.
2. BT's 8 & under club swim team achieved a remarkable three-peat victory at the Midwestern Swimming 8 & Under Championships, dominating the combined team scores.
3. Corbett Lanum, '26, competed in the 3200m run and the 1600m run at State track & field. Corbett was the district Champion in the 3200m and placed third in the 1600m at Districts.
4. BT's theatre troupe garnered Gold, the highest level of distinction awarded, at the 2024 Nebraska Thespian Festival.
5. BT's varsity girls basketball team beat College View Academy to earn their sixth Frontier Conference championship tournament in seven years.
6. In February BT's Acadec team won the State championship in the very small school division, finished 2nd amongst the Small School division, and 3rd in the whole state. This victory marked back-to-back State championships for the team.
7. BT's Math Team participated in the annual University of Nebraska-Lincoln Math Day. The first team clinched first place in class B, while BT's second team secured a second place finish in class C.
8. BT had three students whose talents warranted letter of intent signings this spring:
 - Mia Hatcher, '24, will attend the United States Naval Academy.
 - Lia Li, '24, will play soccer at Rome City Institute in Italy.
 - Hudson McCafferty, '24, will run cross country at Midland University.



- 9. Team 1028 topped off another outstanding VEX robotics season by sending two robot teams from Upper School (1028A and 1028Z) and three teams from Middle School (1028J, 1028T and 1028Y) to the VEX World Championship in Dallas, TX. Nearly 1,300 teams from over 50 countries participated in the VEX World Championship. Team 1028A earned the Amaze Award, which recognizes a consistently high-performing and competitive robot.
- 10. This year, BT extended the Dianne K. Desler Leadership Award program to honor two teachers: history and religion teacher Mark Smith and history and ELL teacher Amber Straka. The award is the highest honor a BT faculty member can receive. It is awarded annually to an individual who is committed to excellence, demonstrates leadership, and models lifelong learning.

- 11. Students had a stellar view of April's historic solar eclipse, safely watching through protective glasses as the moon gradually covered the sun.
- 12. At this year's NSAA District Music Contest, BT's musicians outperformed all other schools, with Upper School orchestra, Gold Tones Jazz Combo, Raider Blues Jazz Combo, and choir earning unanimous Superior ratings and five individual Superior ratings.
- 13. BT's Middle School Science Olympiad team represented the state of Nebraska at the 40th Science Olympiad National Competition hosted by Michigan State University. To earn the appointment, the team finished 1st place in their division at the state competition.



CODING MATH FUN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

In Mrs. Carrie Rise's Multivariable Calculus class, students were challenged to connect their advanced mathematical knowledge to real-world applications. With a desire to inspire younger students and nurture their love for math, the class embarked on an ambitious project – creating an educational video game.

The journey began with a collaborative effort to identify a need and develop a solution. After careful consideration, the students decided to focus on helping younger BT students become more interested and confident in their math journeys, paving the way for them to reach the level of Multivariable Calculus when they reach Upper School.



Matt Schinzel, '24, and Daniel Lindarev, '24, discuss animating the Donkey Kong character Bowser.

To ensure the game's relevance and appeal, the Multivariable Calculus students partnered with BT's fourth grade classes for product research and testing. Through interactive sessions, they gathered insights into the students' relationships with math and explored whether a video game could enhance their learning experience. This feedback helped them define their target market and tailor the game's design accordingly.

With a general understanding of where they wanted to go with the project, the class formed specialized teams to tackle various aspects of game development. These teams included coding, animation/character development, educational development and outreach, interface design, planning, quality assurance, project management, game testing, and general development.

"The hardest part of the game development was just getting started because there were so many unknowns," said Francesca Vidal, '24, who was part of the educational development and outreach team. "Once we formed our teams and were able to focus just on our roles, it got a lot easier."

Drawing inspiration from the popular Donkey Kong franchise, the students created "BT Barrel Bash," a game where players must solve math problems by bashing the correct number/barrel answers and

avoiding the wrong ones. The game features familiar characters like Mario, Princess Peach, Toad, Yoshi, and Bowser, making it both engaging and relatable for younger players.

Mrs. Rise commended her students' problem-solving skills and open-mindedness throughout the development process.

"Part of the reason they are in Multivariable Calculus is because they have outstanding problem-solving skills. Creating the game has posed a lot of problems, and everyone has approached it with such an open mind and an attitude of, 'I don't know how to solve it, but I am willing to try.'"

The project required students to venture into unfamiliar territories and acquire new skills. The interface development team studied online resources and created each screen using the free online graphic design tool Canva. The animation/character design team learned Photoshop and scripting techniques to bring their characters to life. Even coding posed challenges, as the students had to adapt their game to work in a Mac environment after initially coding it for the internet.

After countless hours of hard work and learning, the students were able to conduct a soft rollout with the fourth grade classes, testing the game and identifying areas for improvement. This feedback will be invaluable as next year's Multivariable Calculus class takes over the project, continuing to refine and enhance the educational gaming experience.



Mercedes Levell, '32, and Riley Rohrig, '32, shared their feedback with Tanya Bachu, '25.

Through this remarkable project, the Multivariable Calculus students not only applied their mathematical knowledge but also developed valuable skills in collaboration, problem-solving, and project management. Most importantly, they showcased their commitment to inspiring the next generation of math enthusiasts, ensuring a lasting impact on the BT community.

Civil Rights Movement Inquiry Brings History to Life

This year, Brownell Talbot introduced an engaging new course offering for Upper School students. The class was added to provide students with an in-depth exploration of modern American history, spanning from World War II to the present day. As part of the course, students delved into the Civil Rights Movement, a pivotal era that shaped the nation's journey toward equality and justice. Beyond the well-known figures like Rosa Parks, Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy, the class challenged students to research lesser-known but equally significant individuals who played crucial roles in the movement.

As part of the course, students conducted an extensive study of the Freedom Rides, a series of groundbreaking acts of civil disobedience that challenged segregation in interstate transportation. Students examined the Freedom Rides from various angles, including the routes taken, the participants involved, media coverage, political influences, lasting effects, and personal accounts.

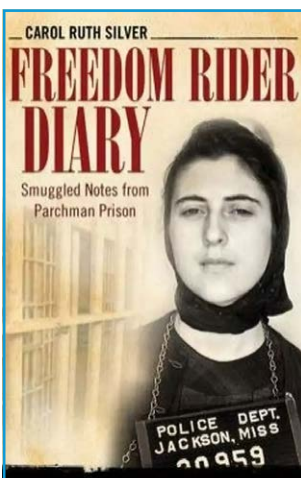
One of the most remarkable experiences of the unit was a virtual meeting with Carol Ruth Silver, a lawyer, civil rights activist, and Freedom Rider herself. Silver, who was

arrested and incarcerated for 40 days in Mississippi for her participation in the movement, shared her firsthand experiences and insights with the students, providing a powerful connection to the history they had studied.

As part of their inquiry-based learning, the students also explored the Omaha bus system, analyzing its routes and identifying areas of the city that are underserved. This local connection reinforced the ongoing relevance of transportation equity and accessibility.

The class also had the opportunity to attend a screening of the film "John Lewis: Good Trouble" at Film Streams, followed by a thought-provoking discussion with students from other schools. This interdisciplinary approach fostered a deeper understanding of the Civil Rights Movement and its enduring impact on society.

Through this innovative U.S. History course, BT students not only gained a comprehensive understanding of pivotal events but also developed a profound appreciation for the sacrifices and struggles that paved the way for progress. By connecting the past to the present, they were empowered to become agents of positive change.



BT students heard firsthand accounts of the Freedom Rides from civil rights activist Carol Ruth Silver.



Students map the Freedom Ride routes.

New Faces Propelling BT to *New Heights*

As Brownell Talbot embarks on the Building Together campus transformation, it's an incredibly exciting time to join the Brownell Talbot team. This summer we welcomed several new faces to our ranks, including two members of the school's leadership team. Their collective expertise in cultivating student potential and fostering an engaged community will undoubtedly propel Brownell Talbot to new heights, positioning the school for its next ambitious chapter.

JANEL SUNDERLAND Vice President of Advancement

With the school embarking on a visionary capital campaign, Sunderland brings invaluable expertise from her previous advancement positions at Dreamweaver Foundation, Joslyn Art Museum, Lauritzen Gardens, and Omaha Symphony.

“What excites me most is the opportunity to share the incredible impact we are making in the lives of our students and community,” Sunderland shared. “While campus spaces start evolving, our mission continues to know, inspire, and challenge every student’s mind and heart.”

Sunderland’s strategic focus will ensure the capital campaign’s success through clear communication that engages donors and unifies the community around this bold vision for Brownell Talbot’s future. Beyond fundraising, cultivating a culture of engagement is vital. She aims to create opportunities for volunteering, networking, and idea sharing across all constituencies.

When she’s not championing BT’s mission, Sunderland finds balance through spending time with her children Emily, x’14, and Megan, x’19. She currently serves on the Lauritzen Garden Antiques Show advisory committee, where she finds joy in giving back her time, contributing to the creation of this inspiring event, and nurturing valuable relationships within the Omaha community.



STEPHANIE BRADY

Dean of Upper School

Stephanie Brady's passion for empowering students and cultivating extraordinary educators made her the perfect fit as Brownell Talbot's new Dean of Upper School. Her authentic, student-centered approach resonates through every interaction.

"The part of my work that I enjoy the most is getting to know the students and families that I'm blessed to work with and serving teachers to cultivate their passion for the profession," Brady shared. "Being able to help guide students through the decision making process throughout Upper School and seeing their progress is the ultimate reward."

Brady's extensive background prepared her for this leadership role. She taught preschool, kindergarten, and third grade before earning her Master's in Educational Administration from Northwestern College. She served as principal at Griswold Middle and High School for three years before joining the BT community.

When she's not championing students, Brady treasures adventures with her family, playing hockey, and promoting fundraisers for youth hockey - especially for young women.



Departmental Enhancements Supported by New Hires

The **Science Department** is making intentional moves to enhance BT's STEM offerings and educational outreach initiatives. By introducing a new STEM coordinator position the school will have additional resources to drive forward-thinking programming, including service learning, AI exploration, internships, and global education. This role will also involve teaching key STEM and elective courses. Additionally, the department is adjusting faculty assignments to better align with educational goals, including shifts in Middle and Lower School science instruction. These changes aim to provide a more comprehensive and progressive science curriculum across all grade levels.

The **Math Department** is implementing a cross-divisional teaching approach beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Under this new structure, all faculty members will teach a combination of Middle and Upper School classes. This strategic shift is designed to create a more intentional and seamless progression as students advance through grade levels, ensuring consistent methodology and a deeper understanding of individual student needs.

The **Counseling Department** is expanding its college counseling services to provide even more comprehensive support for students in their college admissions journey. BT is enhancing the department with additional expertise in both college counseling

and admissions processes. This will allow BT to offer more personalized guidance, drawing on a wealth of experience from various perspectives within higher education. The goal is to equip students with the knowledge and support they need to navigate the increasingly complex college application landscape successfully.

These departmental changes reflect Brownell Talbot's commitment to continuous improvement and innovation in academic programs, ensuring the school provides the best possible educational experience for our students.

Join us in welcoming BT's newest faculty members!

Eva Buczkowski, Lower and Middle Spanish teacher

Emily Kroenke, Middle and Upper School math teacher

Kristine Nelson, fifth grade teacher

Sarah Paulos, Lower School science

Valorie Sailors, Middle and Upper School math teacher

Luke Sanders, Middle and Upper School biology

Chris Slocombe, assistant director of college counseling

HONORING HISTORY:

Brownell Talbot's Farewell to Lower School Facilities

As Brownell Talbot embarks on an exciting new chapter with the transformative “Building Together” campus transformation project, the community came together to bid a fond farewell to the existing Lower School building and Roberts Gymnasium. These facilities have served as beloved spaces for learning, growth, and countless memories over the years, and the school ensured that their legacy will live on long past their demolition.

LOWER SCHOOL FAREWELL OPEN HOUSE

On May 20, the school hosted the Lower School Farewell Open House, inviting students, alumni and current and past BT families, faculty, and staff to attend. This special event provided an opportunity for attendees to walk the hallways one last time, popping into classrooms and reliving fond memories. The nostalgia was palpable as visitors reminisced about their experiences within these walls.

Yearbooks dating back to the 1950s were on display, allowing visitors to explore the rich history of Brownell Talbot through the years. As part of the time capsule that will be buried in the new building, individuals were given the opportunity to complete memory cards, preserving their personal stories and reflections for future generations.

To offer a glimpse into the future, the open house also featured a 3D rendering of the new facilities, as well as site maps and interior renderings. This allowed attendees to envision the exciting possibilities that lie ahead while still honoring the legacy of the past.



“I was in high school at Brownell in the '50s when this building was built. I recall toting books and papers from the old white building to the new school. We were happy to have such a nice space, but also sad about saying goodbye to that old rambling wreck of a white building. I remember making a tile in Ms. Meyers' art room for the tile wall. I was thrilled to see it hung with the others from our classes on the entryway wall. I thoroughly enjoyed the [open house and] individualized tour of the school on May 20. Thank you to the warm and courteous staff for that, and all you've done to make BT a great school. I'm eager to see the new building when it is completed.”

- Your friend, Marlene Rohrke Pantos, Class of 1961



ALL-SCHOOL PHOTO

On May 6, all BT students, faculty, and staff gathered for an all-school photo. This historic moment captured the entire community on the current playground and along the Lower School building and balcony, preserving the memory of these iconic structures. The image will serve as a lasting tribute to the buildings that have played such a significant role for generations of Brownell Talbot families.

STUDENT-CREATED TRIBUTES

During the final days of school, students were encouraged to leave their mark on the buildings in a creative and meaningful way. They were invited to paint and draw on the walls and windows, creating a vibrant and expressive farewell to the spaces that have nurtured their growth and learning.

As Brownell Talbot embarks on this transformative journey, the community has demonstrated its deep appreciation for its history and a commitment to preserving the cherished memories and connections that have been forged within these walls. While the physical structures may change, the spirit of Brownell Talbot lives on, and the school's legacy will continue to inspire and guide future generations of students.

Contribute to the time capsule by sharing your memories on BT's digital message board at brownell.edu/farewell.



Learn more about the Building Together campus transformation project at brownell.edu/buildingtogether

Celebrating the Journey of Inquiry and Discovery



Forest Room: *What makes birds so fascinating? An inquiry into what defines a bird.*

Brownell Talbot's Lower School was a hive of activity and excitement on March 28, 2024, as students from Early Years through fourth grade showcased their impressive inquiry projects at BT's Spring Celebration of Learning. Families and friends filled the hallways, eagerly exploring the diverse and thought-provoking exhibitions meticulously prepared by the young learners.

For the first time, all Lower School culminating projects were shared with family and friends on the same day to enable families to see the learning not only taking place in their child's classroom, but across the Lower School.

The event provided a unique opportunity to witness the depth of students' intellectual curiosity and the remarkable learning journeys they have undertaken throughout the school year.

Students eagerly demonstrated their deep understanding of the inquiry topics and a genuine passion for knowledge. Their confidence and articulation were a testament to the exceptional educational experiences fostered at Brownell Talbot.

"We are incredibly proud of our Lower School students and the remarkable work they have accomplished," said Assistant Head of Academics Crystal Vaught. "This celebration not only showcases their academic achievements but also their ability to think critically, collaborate, and communicate their ideas effectively."

The Spring Celebration of Learning was a resounding success, highlighting the unwavering commitment of BT to nurturing lifelong learners and fostering an environment where inquiry, discovery, and intellectual growth thrive.



Second Grade: *What makes ME become WE? An inquiry into community resources and how people meet their needs in their community.*



Third Grade: *Where did all the freshwater go? An inquiry into the world's access to water, demands on water, and water pollution.*



Fourth Grade: *How have the diverse contributions of historical figures shaped and enriched our global community? An inquiry into diverse historical figures.*



BT FUND

2023-2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Congratulations to the entire Brownell Talbot community for once again coming together to raise money for BT's most important annual fundraising effort: The BT Fund!



4 classes/grades/Houses hit 80%:
Wildflowers, Hermann House,
fourth grade, and Hitchcock House



2 popcorn
pop-ups
(1 with jammies)

73% parent participation

458
gifts

\$369,749
raised!




 **1** gummy worms, glow
sticks, and pajama day



3 
pizza
parties


100% participation
by faculty and staff

**All of Lower School AND
Middle School hit 60% participation**

\$878
average gift
amount

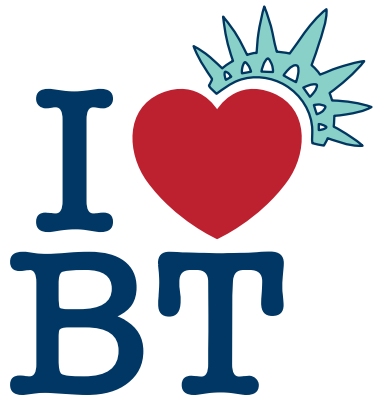
4 ice cream
sundae bars 

 **2** slime bar and
pajama days 

3 donuts and glow
stick dance parties 

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

SUPPORTING OUR
MISSION



Brownell Talbot Gala 2024

HONORARY CHAIRS

Lori and David, '81, Scott

GALA CHAIRS

Rhonda and Jeff Bishop
Valerie and Casey Garrigan



STEERING COMMITTEE

- Natalia Atchley
- Megan Belcher
- Kaleena Biggerstaff
- Nate Burdine
- Sheila Christ-Vakili
- Laura Crosby
- Marion Dawber
- Annie Daugherty
- Ashley DuBois
- Bridget Hamill
- Troy Holm
- Angeline Larson
- Peter Larson
- Annie Linberg, '04
- Jolene Loetscher
- Patra Pakieser
- Arinna Roxas
- Jamie Ryan
- Casie Schlueter
- Shivani Sharma, '04
- Angela Shull
- Karla Loya Stack
- Lea Thomas
- Debbie Wood
- Katie Wudel

The Brownell Talbot community showed their love for BT in a big way during this year's gala weekend! This year's gala included a New York-chic Gala Soirée on Friday, May 10 at the Cottonwood Hotel and a tribute to the city that never sleeps at an adults-only Gala Carnival on BT's campus on Saturday, May 11. This year's theme, I ♥ BT, was the perfect backdrop to demonstrate the passion, ambition, and compassion of the BT community and to celebrate Lori and David, '81, Scott as Gala Honorary Chairs.

The weekend was a true celebration of the BT community, with 376 attendees joining the festivities and over 20 alumni who traveled from near and far to reconnect with their BT friends. The event also provided an opportunity for dozens of new BT families to experience the warmth and spirit of the BT community firsthand.

Through the generosity and leadership of many, Gala 2024: I ♥ BT raised \$1.2 million for scholarships, academic programs, athletics, the fine arts, activities, and faculty and staff professional development. Every gala attendee, sponsor, donor, volunteer, and supporter played a role in making this event a success and showcasing love for Brownell Talbot.

Gala weekend would not have been possible without the vision and hard work of this year's Gala Co-Chairs, Rhonda and Jeff Bishop and Valerie and Casey Garrigan, along with an exceptional group of parent volunteers and an incredible BT staff. The weekend featured many unforgettable moments, including a sneak peek of the facilities that will be built through the Building Together campaign.

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 and New York-inspired hype video on BT's Youtube channel!



Thank you to our Sponsors:

Weekend Presenting Sponsor

The Lori and David Scott Foundation

Soirée Sponsor

Heidi Venteicher, '94, and Richard Dingman

Carnival Sponsor

Rhonda and Valerie and Jeff Bishop Casey Garrigan

Visionary



Hero

Gale Etherton and Fedja Rochling

Brady and Ryan Gibson

Champion

Friends of Brownell Talbot

Suzanne and Rudy Kotula

Katie Weitz, PhD and Tim Wilson



SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

HONORING

Bill Beavers and Bruce Lauritzen

In 2024, Brownell Talbot lost two major supporters and friends of our school and community.



Bill Bruce Beavers, 1936-2024

Bill Beavers was deeply devoted to his family, faith, and the Omaha community. He spent over five decades in the financial services industry, retiring in 2015 as Senior Vice President of Ameritas Investment Corp. Equally important was his 50-year membership at

Dundee Presbyterian Church, where he served as the announcer for the Church of the Air on KFAB for 36 years and held numerous leadership roles.

The Beavers family has a long history with Brownell Talbot. Bill and his wife Mary Ann raised three children who attended Brownell Talbot, Brett, '82, Bethany, '86, and Belinda, '87. Bill served as a trustee on Brownell Talbot's Board for 10 years (1981-1991), five of which were spent as Board president. As president, he worked diligently to keep major gifts in the forefront of BT's long-term planning, speaking on the school's behalf to countless business and corporate colleagues. He aided the school's fiscal stability by spearheading the Private Placement Bond Issue. Bill and Mary Ann were instrumental in supporting BT during many annual, capital, and endowment campaigns, including funding improvements to St. Matthias Chapel and developing the fitness center and wellness programming at the school.

The Beavers family kindly directed memorials for Bill to the Brett Beavers Memorial Scholarship Fund at BT,

which was established in 1982, at the time of Brett's death. The scholarship fund has been continuously supported by family, friends, alumni, faculty, staff, trustees, and members of the Omaha community to honor and perpetuate the memory of Brett. This fund provides opportunities for other young people to learn and grow at Brownell Talbot and endures to this day.

Bill's grandchildren, Audrey Graves, '18, Brett Graves, '17, and Amelia Bell, '25, continue Beavers' legacy at Brownell Talbot.

Support the Brett Beavers Memorial Scholarship Fund by visiting brownell.edu/give.



Headmaster David Williams, Jeannette James, Anne Batchelder, and Board of Trustees Chairman Bill Beavers (1986-1991) at BT's first gala in 1982.



Bruce R. Lauritzen, 1943-2024

Bruce Lauritzen, a revered member of the Brownell Talbot community, passed away in February. Lauritzen was well-known in Omaha as an incredible businessman and inspiring leader, with a career at FNBO spanning over 55 years.

The Lauritzen family's rich history with Brownell Talbot dates back to the school's founding in 1863. Bishop Clarkson, instrumental in relocating the school

to facilitate growth, became president of the Board of Trustees in 1868. Until his death in 1884, Bishop Clarkson maintained a deep commitment to Brownell Hall.

For generations, the Lauritzen family has contributed greatly to the school through their legacy of support and service. Bruce carried on this spirit of community and philanthropy, serving as a dedicated trustee from 1979 to 1988. His three children - Meg Lauritzen, '86, Clark Lauritzen, '95, and Blair Lauritzen Gogel, '88 - continued the family tradition by attending Brownell Talbot.

Bruce Lauritzen's impact on the school and the broader Omaha community will be long remembered. The Lauritzen family's multi-generational ties to Brownell Talbot exemplify the deep-rooted connections that have shaped the school into the esteemed institution it is today.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME: BT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brownell Talbot is appreciative of the individuals who have accepted the invitation to help guide the direction of the school and the implementation of the strategic plan by joining the Board of Trustees. Their willingness and excitement to serve BT families is inspiring. Please join us in saying thank you to outgoing members and welcome to its newest member!

THANK YOU TO DEPARTING TRUSTEES:



Megan Belcher

Megan Belcher joined the Board in 2019. During her time on the Board, Megan served on the Development Committee and as secretary and, more recently, vice-chair of the Board. She also co-chaired gala in 2023. Megan has two children, Finch, x'27, and Emme, x'29, Bartel. Best of luck to Megan and her family as they relocate to Kohler, Wisconsin!



Lori Scott

Lori Scott has served on the Board since 2010 as a member and chair of the Enrollment and Marketing Committee. Lori and her husband, David, '81, co-chaired gala in 2009 and were the honorary chairs for this year's gala. Lori and David have three children, Madison, '18, Kaitlyn, '21, and Dylan, '23.



David Welch

David Welch joined the Board in 2021. David was an influential member of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee of the Board. He and his wife, Anna Lee, have three children, Ivy, x'24, Clara, x'25, and David, Jr., x'28.

2024-2025 BOARD MEMBERS

Christopher Hedican, chair

Jerry Reimer, treasurer

Gale Etherton, secretary

Laura Crosby

Marc DuBois

Stephen George

Chip James II, '88

Fatima Khan

Deepak Khazanchi

Rudy Kotula

Nikhil Mehta

Karalee Picard

Pirzada Sattar

Shikhar Saxena, x'99

Corrie Shumaker

Renee Wessels

Brian Wood

Welcome Fatima Khan

The Board of Trustees welcome its newest member, Fatima Khan. With a diverse background spanning the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan, Fatima brings a global mindset and passion for inclusive education to her new role. With a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology, as well as a master's degree in international relations, she has a diverse skill set honed through roles in education, project management, and editorial work.

Fatima has been a BT parent since 2008. She and husband Farhan have two children, Emaan, '23, and Zayd, '27. Her involvement with Brownell Talbot extends beyond parenting, having chaired gala in 2015 and 2021, served on gala steering committees, and assisted in classrooms. This hands-on experience has given her a deep appreciation for the school's commitment to academic excellence and community engagement.



NEW
BEGINNINGS

CONGRATULATIONS



11

graduates were eligible for the Frontier Academic All-Conference Award based on their standardized test and GPA achievements.

MORE THAN \$4.4 MILLION

in scholarships were offered.

The 27 members of Brownell Talbot's Class of 2024 were offered admission to 81 colleges and universities in 32 states, the District of Columbia, Spain, and Italy.

Mean GPA: 3.58 (through fall 2023)

The Class of 2024 completed more than 1,500 hours of community service during their Upper School years.

NEW BEGINNINGS

TO THE CLASS OF 2024!



College Matriculation

- Boston College
- Columbia University
- Creighton University
- Drake University
- Escuela Superior de Administración y Dirección de Empresas
- Metropolitan Community College
- Midland University
- Nebraska Wesleyan University
- Reed College
- Rome City Institute
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Stanford University
- United States Naval Academy
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- University of Missouri
- University of Nebraska at Omaha
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- University of Tulsa

ALUMNI *on Campus*

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.



Gala

- 1** Michelle and Peter, '81, Massey David, '81, and Lori Scott Nicole (Rossi) Lanum, '98, with her husband and BT's Technology Integration Specialist Wade Lanum Jordan Proby, '15, with fiancée Sydney Pratt Belinda Beavers, '87, with daughter Amelia, '25, and husband Shelby Bell Charlotte Hedican, '15, with her father and Board of Trustees Chair Chris Hedican Kirk Swartzbaugh, '88, with his wife Sue Swartzbaugh Heidi Venteicher Dingman, '94, with gala guests, including her mother Susan Venteicher and husband Rich Dingman Joanna and Jorge, '06, Sotolongo

- 2** Congratulations to Tower Kountze, x'96, and Lenli Corbett! Tower and Lenli were married in St. Matthias Chapel in January.
- 3** Ruben Zendejas, '12, shared a Hoop Dance at BT's recent Multicultural Fair. Zendejas is a member of the Omaha tribe and general manager at Quick Current-Nebraska and Quick Current-Iowa, LLC.

Young Alumni Panel

- 4** Thank you to these young alumni for coming in to share their wisdom with the Class of 2024: Gabby Boles, '22, Janeilya Davis, '22, Allie Froendt, '22, Serena Zezulak, '23, Sophie Reimer, '23, Dylan Scott, '23, and James Music, '23.

Lower School Farewell Open House

- 5** Pictured are a few of the many alumni and friends of the school who stopped by for a farewell visit.

The Propst siblings were in town earlier in the week and stopped by campus. Pictured are: Tanzi, '12, Tenley, '15, and Carson, '20



Genavieve Andersen, '09, with Stacey Evert, former director of college counseling

J.B. Davis, '13, Arielle Bloemer, '13, Olivia Hovey, x'22, and Lauren Tims, '13

Bethany Haas, '23, and Frank Soto Tighe, '23

Dianne Desler with Shivani Sharma, '04, and her daughter, Sanaya Pomerleau, '35

Lois McElderry, a family friend, John McElderry, '18, and Activities Director Jeff Rohrig

Mike Skinner, '82, with former BT faculty and administrators Jackie Byers, Ann Nordin, and Dianne Desler

Marlene (Rohrke) Pantos, '61, with her daughter, Rachel Kirk Swartzbaugh, '88, with Dianne Desler

Cathy (McEachen) Hoberman, '70, Dianne Desler, and Kathy (Keogh) Noel, '70

Graduation

Jorge Sotolongo, '06, addressed the Class of 2024 as this year's Commencement speaker. Catch up with Jorge, who is this edition's Alumni Spotlight, on page 21.

Many alumni were on campus to celebrate Commencement. Pictured:

Chris, '22, Dan, Clare, '24, Matt, '24, Kim, and Mary, '22, Schinzel

Guy, '24, and Mia, '21, Shipley

Clare, '22, and Page, '24, Miller-Petznick

Stephen, '14, Luke, '24, and Miranda, '19, Knofczynski Francesca, '24, and Fiorella, '20, Vidal with parents Miriam and Juan and sister, Flavia.

Nathan, '24, and Hanna, '21, Kober

I've been married to my wife, Joanna, for seven years and we have three children. Our oldest, Valentina, just completed her first year of Early Years at Brownell Talbot. I have been doing commercial real estate since we moved back to Omaha in late 2017. I currently serve on the Omaha Planning Board and the Board of Directors for the Greater Omaha YMCA.

What do you love about commercial real estate?

I found out early on that I didn't belong behind a desk. I love the fact that my career is social and thrives on connection, not only to individuals but also my community. From first-time investors to for-profit, nonprofit, small, and large businesses, helping my clients make real estate decisions for their businesses has been rewarding.

Can you tell us a bit about how you stay connected to civic matters in Omaha?

Civic involvement has always been a part of my real estate practice and early in my career I was able to join an advisory council for Mayor Jean Stothert. Alongside a diverse group of young individuals, I realized how accessible our city can be for those looking to make an impact. In 2020, I decided to run for the Nebraska State Legislature to better serve Downtown and South Omaha. I lost the race, but I gained so much through that process. Since then, I've taken part in writing our City Charter, I was appointed to the Omaha Planning Board, and I serve on the board of the Greater Omaha YMCA.

Your oldest child Valentina became a Raider this year. Why did you choose to send your children to BT?

We chose to send our daughter to BT because we feel that the school is committed to the holistic development of its students. We want our daughter to thrive in her own way, explore her talents, and ultimately enter the adult world prepared to give back to society and her community. As someone who forged lifelong relationships at BT, I know my children will have that same opportunity.

Which BT teachers had the biggest impact on you?

Mr. Mike Recker fueled my passion for French and helped identify my knack for languages, in general. I never got tired of being able to turn Mrs. Carrie Rise's face beet red with a joke or prank. I also can't forget Ms. Dianne Desler who taught me about compassion and dutiful service.

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

BT taught me to read and write better than most people in any given room. Despite the smaller class sizes, BT also taught me to relate to many types of people, despite our differences.

What advice would you give to current BT students?

I would advise current BT students to always strive for excellence in whatever they do, not for themselves, but so they can serve others. It is an immense privilege to receive an education from BT. Don't apologize for it. Take advantage of it and, crucially, use it for good.

What is something you learned in the last week?

I learned how to make espresso on the stove, like an Italian grandmother.



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

Jeanette (Lazear) Claiborne, '48

D. May 14, 2020

Jane (Elmore) Becker, '53

D. February 5, 2022

Constance (Cowdery) O'Neil, '58, Survived by sister
Cindy (Cowdery) McGowan, '56

D. May 9, 2024

FRIENDS

Ravinder Nath, Survived by son Cameron Nath, '07, and
Megan Nath, x'13

D. January 4, 2024

Martin Braun, Survived by son, Ben Braun, '10, Preceded
in death by son, Nick Braun, '10

D. April 23, 2024

Roni Hyde, Survived by son Zeke Krejci-Hyde, '20

D. May 25, 2024

NEWS

1 Huldah (Minthorn) Niles, '00, is the artistic director and a founding member of Mill City String Quartet in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Huldah founded the quartet in 2007 after completing her M.M. (Master of Music) degree in Violin Performance at the University of Minnesota.

Mill City String Quartet won third prize at the esteemed International Clara Schumann Competition 2023 in the Professional Chamber Music category.

Katie (Anderson) McCarville, '05, was named Assistant Director of Graduate Business Career Services for Analytics and Supply Chain Management at the University of Colorado Boulder - Leeds School of Business.

Blair MacDonald, '08, was promoted to vice president at O'Hare Lindsay Government Relations.

J.B. Davis, '13, recently accepted a position as an associate attorney at Engles, Ketcham, & Olson, P.C.

Grayson Shirey, '21, is serving as a public relations intern at Pinkston.

Will Calderon, '15, was promoted to associate environmental engineer at Olsson. Calderon is also an assistant coach for BT's girls basketball team.

2 Charlotte Hedican, '15, played the role of Minnie Fay in the Omaha Community Playhouse production of *Hello Dolly!*, which ran through June 30.

3 Lauren Thaden, '17, and **Sean Gardner, '17**, were married on April 13, 2024.

Alice Silberling, '19, graduated magna cum laude from William & Mary with a degree in history and marketing in May 2023. She is currently working as a marketing executive for CEEK Marketing in London.

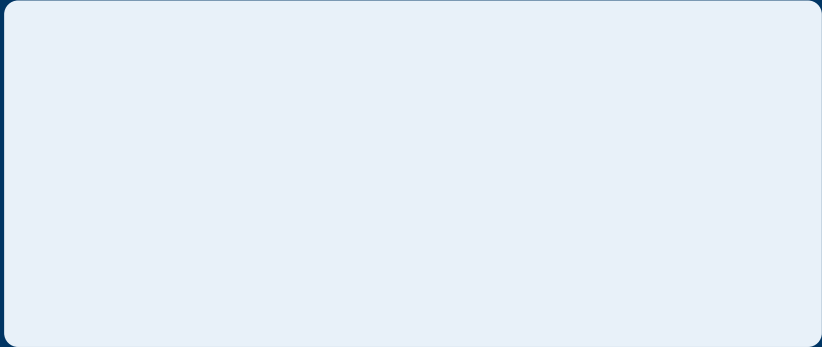
4 Madison Scott, '18, has earned a master's degree in industrial and organizational psychology from University of Nebraska at Omaha.



1 Huldah (Minthorn) Niles, '00, second from the right.



4 Madison Scott, '18, pictured with siblings Kaitlyn, '21, and Dylan, '23.



IT WAS A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENROLL FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR!
Space is limited, contact our Enrollment Office today to secure your child's spot!



admissions@brownell.edu