

BRADLEY

THE MAGAZINE OF BRADLEY UNIVERSITY | FALL 2024

Inside the search for
Bradley's next president

I bought a lighthouse!

A rock-n-roll spin on
retirement





Students in the John C. Hench Production Art Studios prepare to record a new episode of BUTV. Pictured left to right: Harvey Newcomb, Benji Spear, Rachel Hobbs, Abdiel Ramirez, Cassie Maxwell (obscured), and Isaiah Iglesias.





- 43** **PAR FOR THE COURSE: A LEGACY OF SUPPORT & SUCCESS**
Recent Bradley grad, John Stillman '23, MBA '24, created a \$100,000 endowment named after his golf coach, Jeff Roche, to ensure opportunities for future students on the men's golf team.

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Here's the Latest Online

bradley.edu/heres-the-latest



SCULPTING HISTORY

To commemorate Bradley alumnus and the first Black astronaut, Major Robert Lawrence Jr. '56, a life-size bronze statue is being built in

his honor. When finished, it will be erected in the quad outside Olin Hall during Black History Month in February 2025.



INNOVATIVE AI ROBOT AIMS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH AUTISM IN THE CLASSROOM

Four computer science students teamed up to

design and build a kid-friendly robot using artificial intelligence (AI) to help predict behavioral meltdowns in the classroom.



EDUCATION AT ANY AGE

With around 1,100 active members, Bradley University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) provides hundreds of educational,

volunteer-led opportunities designed by and for adults over 50.



FROM CLASSROOMS TO TUK TUKS: BRADLEY STUDENTS NAVIGATE ADVENTURE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Two professors bridged culture and business in

a two-week journey with 16 students across Thailand and Singapore.



BUILDING A BIGGER COMFORT ZONE

Bringing in his own background as an immigrant man of color with English as a second language,

professor Juan Rios Vega teaches Exploring Diversity to help dismantle students' perceptions of issues like prejudice. Through both learning and unlearning, he walks students through difficult subjects in a comfortable way.



View the magazine in digital format at bradley.edu/magazine

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Through the Lens

How a story about a lighthouse brought two alumni together



BY JENEVIEVE ROWLEY-DAVIS

As a brief pitstop between photographing rock star Frank Turner shows in Buffalo, N.Y. and Indianapolis, **Rich Russo '84** made the trek to Fairport Harbor, Ohio, to shoot a completely different subject—the 99-year-old lighthouse owned by **Sheila Consaul '80**.

The Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light is situated about a 20-minute walk from the nearest road, nestled along the shore of Lake Erie. After a pleasant walk along the sandy trail through Headlands Beach State Park, Russo arrived at Consaul's doorstep ecstatic to photograph everything that caught his eye.

"Given my love of lighthouses, I was almost too giddy to photograph it," Russo said. "To have access to a functioning lighthouse was such a thrill."

His excitement was infectious.

"Rich was a ball of energy and completely enamored with the lighthouse and learning about its history and restoration," Consaul said. "It was a very different subject matter for him to photograph, so his curiosity was off the charts. While I've had my

photo at the lighthouse taken by many significant publications and TV shows, Rich was just downright fun. I particularly enjoy meeting alums like myself who were not from Illinois, yet chose Bradley for all of its outstanding qualities."

As Consaul gave the tour and Russo started shooting with aplomb, they reminisced about their Bradley experiences.

"Sheila graduated in the spring prior to my arrival at Bradley in the fall of '84," Russo explained. "She lived in University Hall and I worked in the U-Hall cafeteria. Hearing about her time on BU's inaugural women's tennis team was very interesting."

"The lighthouse brings all kinds of people together, especially many of my Bradley friends," Consaul said. Barring any unmissable concerts, Russo hopes he can return next year for the 100-year anniversary of the lighthouse.

To see the results of Consaul and Russo's photoshoot, check out "For the Love of History: Finding Home in a Lighthouse" on page 27. To see some of Russo's concert photography, check out "Punk Rock Retiree" on page 33.

the
BIG
QUESTION

Who was the most interesting person you met at Bradley?

Send your response to magazine@bradley.edu

FOUNDER'S DAY

At this year's Founder's Day Convocation on Sept. 27, Bradley recognized and celebrated university staff, faculty and alumni who have carried on the traditions of our founder,

**Lydia Moss
Bradley.**



2024 CENTURION SOCIETY MEMBERS

Jeffery Bogart '69 has had a distinguished 50+ year career as an attorney. He's dedicated himself to teaching and mentoring future legal professionals, serving as an adjunct professor and even developing a highly-rated trial practice program for the Georgia Bar. He was named one of the Best Lawyers in America multiple times by U.S. News & World Report and he's been recognized as a Georgia Super Lawyer since 2004. Bogart has also taught courses in the Slane College of Communications and Fine Arts and the pre-law program, right here at Bradley.

Anne Fredd '64 has been at Neal & Leroy LLC, the oldest African American-owned law firm in the country, for nearly 50 years. She has championed affirmative action programs and led major public projects that helped build Chicago's police stations, libraries, parks and other vital facilities. Fredd has been a guiding force in numerous organizations, serving as President of the Cook County Bar Association Foundation and mentoring young women of color through Alpha Gamma Pi Sorority. In 2016, she was inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame and in 2023 she was inducted into the Cook County Bar Association Hall of Fame.



Bradley Hosts First TEDx Event

More than 80 Bradley students and Peoria community members attended the first TEDxBradley University event. The program theme was “Discovery and Value Creation,” touching on topics like artificial intelligence, innovation, sustainability, energy and human thought and expression.

Speakers for the event included local entrepreneur and founder of VirtuSense Technologies **Deepak Gaddipati '05**, Air Force Major General Gary Dylewski and four Bradley professors: Seth Katz, **Heather Ford '20**, **Brad Eskridge '08** and David Spelman.

The TEDx event was organized and hosted by the Caterpillar College of Engineering and Technology and the Foster College of Business.

2024 FOUNDER'S DAY AWARDS

Distinguished Alumni Award - Jeffery Bogart '69

Lydia Moss Bradley Award - Craig Thompson '74

Outstanding Young Graduate Award
Dr. Natalie LaFranzo '07

Staff Excellence Awards

David Trillizio, Director of Orientation and Transfer Student Assistance

Jamie Glenzinski, Administrative Assistant, Department of Communication

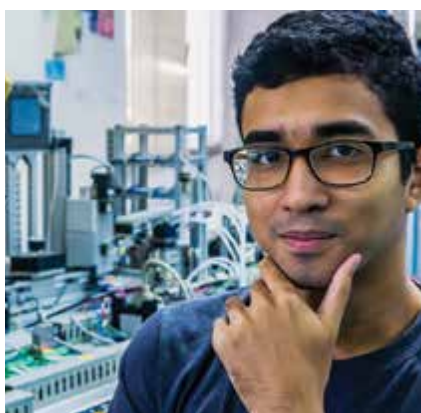
Francis C. Mergen Award for Public Service
Dr. Patricia Nugent, Professor, Education, Counseling and Leadership

Phi Theta Kappa Recognizes Bradley's Transfer Program

Bradley was recognized by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) as one of the esteemed institutions on the PTK 2024 Transfer Honor Roll. This highlights Bradley's commitment to providing a seamless and supportive transfer process for students coming from other institutions. Bradley has continually prioritized the needs of transfer students through initiatives like personalized academic advising, robust orientation programs and financial aid packages designed specifically for transfer students.

Diversity Recognition in Engineering

The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) has named Bradley in its Diversity Recognition Program (ADRP). This validates Bradley's commitment to inclusion and equity, particularly within the Engineering Department. The field of engineering has traditionally faced challenges establishing initiatives that create greater equity, inclusion and diversity. Bradley's status as an ADRP institution is a testament to the support for under-represented groups that the Engineering Department has worked hard to put in place.



Faculty Award for Excellence in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Dr. Amy Scott, Associate Professor, History and Women's and Gender Studies

Academic Advisor of the Year Award
Dr. Emily Schnurr, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Caterpillar Faculty Achievement Award for Scholarship
Dr. Nawaz Ali, Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Information Systems

Caterpillar Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching
Dr. Shannon Cunningham, Assistant Professor, Criminology

Samuel Rothberg Professional Excellence Award
Dr. Rachel Vollmer, Associate Professor, Family and Consumer Sciences

Putnam Award for Excellence in Teaching
Dr. Travis Stern, Associate Professor, Theatre Arts



Introducing the Bradley Commitment

Bradley University is proud to introduce the Bradley Commitment, a program designed to increase access to quality higher education for high-achieving students from Illinois.

The Bradley Commitment offers full tuition coverage to qualifying students, providing them with the financial support they need to pursue their academic dreams. This initiative is part of Bradley's ongoing effort to ensure equitable access to a world-class education for all students.

"The Bradley Commitment ensures that academically driven students from Illinois, regardless of their financial background, have the opportunity to pursue their dreams without the burden of tuition," said Bradley University Interim President Jonathan Michael. "By providing this support, we are investing in our future leaders while reaffirming our

dedication to fostering academic success for all."

The Bradley Commitment is a grant-based program that covers tuition costs not already funded by other federal, state, institutional or private awards, such as the Federal Pell Grant or Illinois MAP (Monetary Award Program) funding.

"The Bradley Commitment is built into our financial aid model. It's stacked with grant eligibility coming from external sources, along with academic scholarships," explained Angie Cooksy, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications.

"By announcing this now, particularly in a year where we are navigating new FAFSA deadlines, families will know Bradley is an affordable option," she said.



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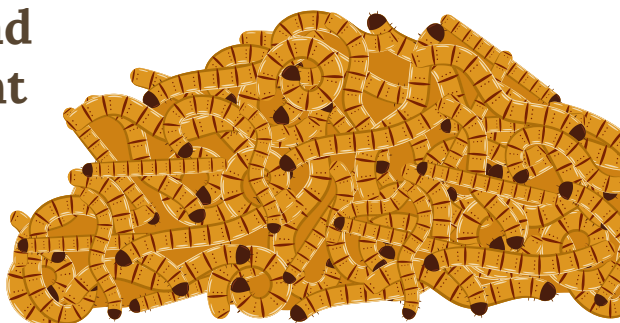
 **BRADLEY** University



Edible Insects:

The Science and Sensory Delight Behind the BugNug

BY EMILY POTTS



When nutrition and dietetics major **Adrianna Gonnella '24** pursued an Arnold/Wheeler Scholarship (A/W) through the Family and Consumer Sciences Department, she had no idea she would end up developing a food product using insects.

"I have always had an entrepreneurial side, and my friend and I talked about starting a protein bar company," she said. "I was also interested in renewable agriculture and sustainable farming, so I wondered if I could combine these two interests."

First year A/W Scholars dedicate most of their time to research, so Gonnella started studying different types of proteins and she came across an article about using insects for protein. She discovered insect protein production requires seven times less water and 100 times less land than animal protein production and there are already two billion people who consume over 2,000 varieties of insects around the world.

"Insects can greatly reduce methane emissions and they are full of bio-available protein and other nutrients,

and can be produced cheaply," Gonnella explained. "I wanted to design my A/W project around how to convince people to consume insects by finding a palatable recipe."

DEVELOPING A TASTE FOR INSECTS

Instead of creating a protein bar, she started developing the BugNug (as it was affectionately called)—a faux chicken nugget. Gonnella spent a lot of time in the food lab in Westlake Hall developing, testing, tasting and scrapping recipes trying to come up with an edible solution that was also visually pleasing.

"I learned that food development takes a lot of trial and error, and I was thankful that I was able to use the food lab for a good chunk of time during the summer of 2023," she said.

Over time, there were significant changes to the recipe. Originally, Gonnella used grasshoppers, but she quickly discovered they had a fishy flavor that was hard to mask. "Mealworms ended up being much milder and nutty, and were more readily available," she explained.



Other factors such as texture, color and binding the nuggets required several ingredient changes over time. She tested rice flour, oat flour and corn flour, with corn flour being the winner because it had a mild flavor and left the nuggets with a lighter texture.

THE ULTIMATE TEST

Gonnella enlisted 44 participants—many friends and fellow dietetics majors—to complete a sensory analysis and post-consumption survey. Each person was given four BugNugs to sample, each with varying amounts of mealworm powder to corn flour ratios and asked to rate each nugget based on five characteristics: crust color, interior color, texture, flavor and aftertaste.

“We determined that for each characteristic the mean (average) score was pretty significant, because the results were not random—they were due to changes in the recipe,” Gonnella explained. The nuggets with a higher percentage of mealworms had a lower score. She also observed the participants looking very closely at the nuggets, which speaks to how

important the appearance of food is to consumers.

The post-survey results asked participants to rate their experience when presented with facts about the sustainability of the ingredients. “The panelists said they would be interested in other insect-based food items that were deemed sustainable, which shows how much social norm affects our food choices,” she revealed.

Although we won’t see BugNugs on store shelves any time soon, Gonnella was encouraged by her research and hopes that one day there will be an insect-based product at the grocery store. For now, she’s pursuing her master’s degree to become a dietitian.

“I had professors in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department who supported me throughout my Arnold/Wheeler project. I also learned so much from my peers and from challenging each other to go further with our research” she explained. “I am so happy I made the decision to go to Bradley and I’m proud of the life I was able to build there.” **B**

Did you know that the agricultural practices of the Great Plains, especially in Illinois, play a crucial role in the conservation of grizzly bears hundreds of miles away? It's a fascinating connection uncovered by assistant biology professor Dr. Anant Deshwal and his students.

As a conservation biologist, Deshwal's research quantifies the combined effect of urbanization and climate change on the community dynamics of birds and insects. Recently, Deshwal received the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Biology Mentor Award for an early career scientist. This award honors biology mentors for their sustained efforts in supervising undergraduate research students.

Last summer, Deshwal and some of his students visited the Nachusa Grasslands near Dixon, Ill., to study different habitat management techniques like prescribed burns, herbivore grazing and invasive weed removal. During their research, they stumbled upon an unexpected moth species: Fall Army Cutworm Moths.

"These moths, usually seen as pests by farmers, are vital for the survival of grizzly bears in the Rocky Mountains," Deshwal explained. "Though common in the Midwest, they had never been documented in Illinois before. This amazing discovery shows how Illinois could play a key role in conserving grizzly bears in the Rockies."

To document his findings, Deshwal is teaming up with Wild Excellence Films to develop a 54-minute documentary on this phenomenon called *Prairies to Peaks*. The film documents the relationship between grizzly bears in Montana and Wyoming and the Army Cutworm Moths from the Midwest. These unsuspecting moths with a 1½-inch

wingspan provide nearly half of the yearly nourishment needed by grizzly bears who consume them within 30 days in the Rocky Mountain West.

THE MOTHS' EPIC JOURNEY

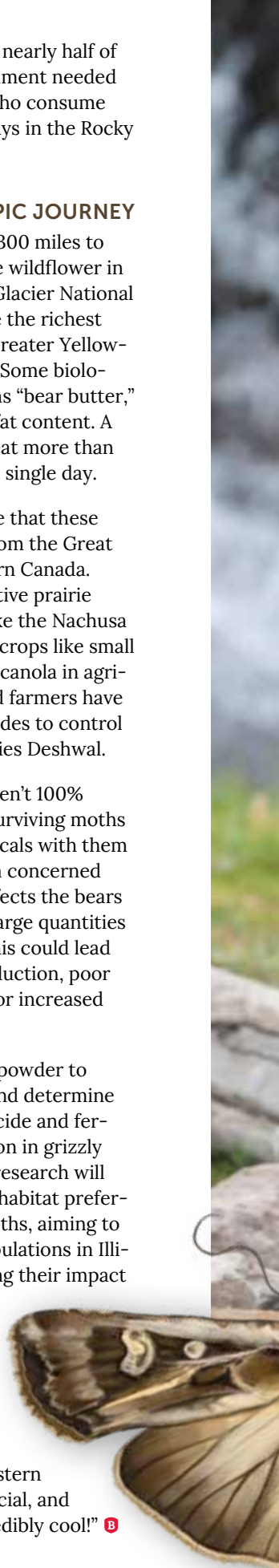
The moths travel 300 miles to feast on the alpine wildflower in Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks and become the richest bear food in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Some biologists call the moths "bear butter," due to their high fat content. A grizzly bear may eat more than 40,000 moths in a single day.

Few people realize that these insects migrate from the Great Plains and southern Canada. They consume native prairie plants in places like the Nachusa Grassland and on crops like small grains, alfalfa and canola in agricultural fields, and farmers have been using pesticides to control them, which worries Deshwal.

"The pesticides aren't 100% effective, so the surviving moths carry these chemicals with them to the Rockies. I'm concerned about how this affects the bears consuming such large quantities daily," he said. "This could lead to reduced reproduction, poor immune systems or increased mortality."

Deshwal uses UV powder to track the moths and determine the levels of pesticide and fertilizer accumulation in grizzly bears. His future research will also look into the habitat preferences of these moths, aiming to increase their populations in Illinois while reducing their impact on farming.

"There are many unanswered questions about these moths, but their role in sustaining the western ecosystems is crucial, and I think that's incredibly cool!" **B**



Prairies to Peaks:

The Surprising Connection Between Illinois Moths and Grizzly Bears

BY EMILY POTTS



Moth Illustration: Ashlyn Serrine, senior graphic design major



New Renewable Energy Tech Lab

Bradley will receive \$950,000 in federal funding through the Scientific and Technical Research and Services Program from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). These funds will directly support the development of a cutting-edge laboratory in the Business and Engineering Convergence Center (BECC) designed to train engineering students to manage and understand electrification standards for reliable power production.

This NIST appropriation complements the university's agreement with Nexamp community solar farms located across central Illinois. Together the solar farms will generate almost 17.5 megawatts of solar generating capacity for Bradley's campus and surrounding residents. This will result in approximately \$115,000 in annual energy cost savings to the university.

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\$1.9 Million NSF Grant Awarded to Bradley

A National Science Foundation grant of \$1.9 million will fund Bradley's Partnerships for Enhancing ERI Research through the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP). OSP supports faculty and staff seeking external funding to conduct research, scholarship, creative work, curricular and pedagogical initiatives and educational outreach. The additional resources will provide the support necessary to enhance research capabilities, foster collaboration across disciplines and accelerate the pace of discovery.

Create a Legacy at Bradley!

Bradley offers legacy scholarships for qualifying students.



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5 Questions

KELVIN HERRERA-HASSAN

Kelvin Herrera-Hassan has served as executive director for the Office of Inclusive Excellence since June of 2022. His office supports the success of historically underrepresented communities on campus and engages the campus community through educational programming and collaborations with student organizations and university departments.



1. WHAT DOES INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE MEAN TO YOU?

Inclusive excellence means just being able to recognize and celebrate the uniqueness and contributions of each individual. When you talk about inclusive excellence at the campus level, that then shifts to accountability and focusing on continuous improvement. Being inclusive is tough and it takes work. “Excellence” means it’s a nonstop effort. We’re always refining, always reshaping.

2. YOUR OUTFITS ARE ALWAYS ON POINT. WHAT’S THE SECRET TO YOUR STYLE?

I appreciate that. I like to think I put a little effort into it here and there. A big part of it's where I'm from—New York. It's instilled in us to always put effort into what you're wearing. I also think it allows others to see a little bit of my expression through what I have on. It allows me to connect with our students. I'm a big sneakerhead too. I have over 40 pairs of sneakers. I'm working on decreasing that number, but it doesn't work if you continue to buy. But I think the secret is just being you.

3. CONGRATS ON YOUR RECENT ENGAGEMENT! HOW IS ENGAGED LIFE TREATING YOU?

It is a blessing. The best thing is having a partner for life who understands me and will be on my team on the good and bad days. It's understanding you don't have to do this life thing alone. It feels good to have that person who's always sharpening you, helping you to get better. It keeps me grounded.

4. HOW DO YOU APPROACH DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE THAT DON'T BELIEVE IN THE WORK YOU'RE DOING?

It's tough. I think if you want to do DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) work in a way where you're not antagonizing folks, or “weaponizing” it as some might say,



you have to understand people's perspectives. Do they have to understand yours? No. But you have to understand theirs, and that's the most difficult part of this work. I also have to be open to feedback and compromise. The only thing I ask in return is they be similarly open.

One of the things we do with every training we have is establish “community agreements.” The last two items speak to this: You may leave with more questions than you do answers. And have fun. Often, people think this work is brutal or painful. It can be, but all the same, you can have fun doing it.

5. WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP DIALOGUE AROUND DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION OPEN?

If you take away one thing from this interview, this should be it: Keeping the dialogue around diversity, equity, and inclusion open is necessary in order to maintain functions across campus. I know a lot of people don't think about it that way, but when you have conversations about diversity or equity or inclusion, it builds trust and strengthens community bonds. A lot of issues come from the unknown—not being familiar with a person's customs, culture or beliefs. Being around folks who don't look like you or believe in similar things like you, it helps combat the unknown.

A lot of the issues we face today stem from systems that were put in place way before we were even born, way before our parents were even born. A lot of biases were written into the way things are now, including institutions. Opening the dialogue around these systemic issues allows us to address them effectively. If we don't acknowledge these issues exist, if we're not even willing to continue the conversation, then we start ignoring our history. How can we learn to move forward without being able to learn from our past? We need open dialogue if we hope to improve upon the present. **B**

WELCOME WEEK

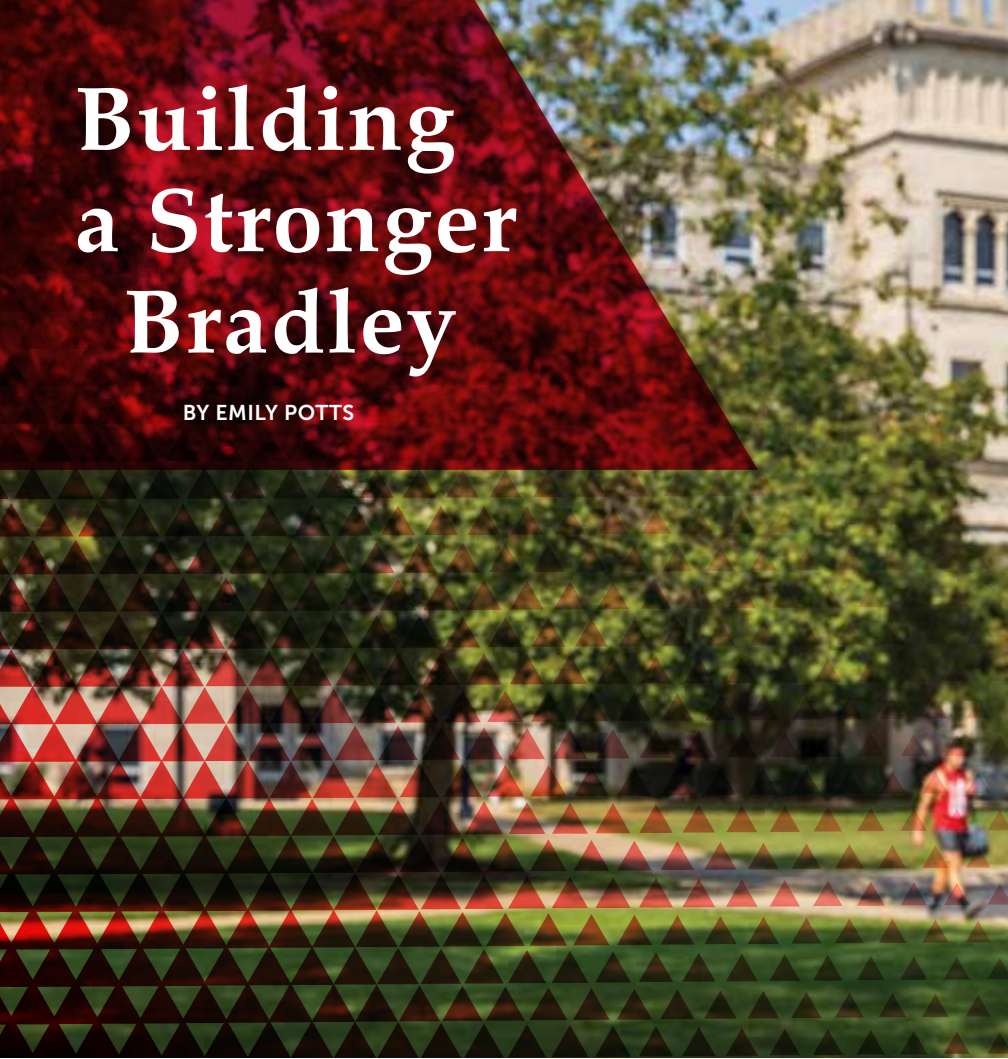


HOMECOMING





*Campus
Snaps*



Building a Stronger Bradley

BY EMILY POTTS

How Interim President Jon Michael Plans to Lead the University While Searching for the Next President

In this exclusive interview, Bradley University's interim president and former chair of the Board of Trustees, Jon Michael, outlines his vision for the university's future. With more than 40 years of leadership experience at property and casualty insurance company RLI Corp. and a deep commitment to the Peoria community, he is uniquely positioned to guide Bradley through this critical transition. Michael is committed to ensuring the university continues to grow and excel, laying a solid foundation for the next president.

As interim president, what are your top priorities?

My top priority is creating a culture where students, faculty, staff and alumni thrive. To create this environment Bradley must increase enrollment, ensure students have an amazing experience once they're on campus and develop stronger relationships with local high schools.

My main focus this year is increasing enrollment because it touches every element of this university. We're developing strategies to make this happen



over the next several years by exploring new avenues to encourage students to come to Bradley—whether it's first-year, transfer, grad or international students—we want to get them to Bradley and keep them at Bradley. We have a tremendous opportunity to attract more students and reduce some of the barriers that prevent them from applying.

Once we get students here, we need to make sure they have a great experience and we have the people and systems in place to make that happen. I might be biased, but our faculty and staff are some of the best out there, and they go above and beyond helping students succeed in and out of the classroom. I've seen it firsthand in the research labs at Olin Hall and through Capstone projects where students work alongside faculty and industry partners to come up with innovative solutions to complex problems. Our staff members in the Smith Career Center help students land life-changing internships—many of which lead to full-time employment after graduation.

I want to get local students excited about Bradley. We offer these great summer programs to central Illinois high schoolers like the Biochemistry Summer Research Program and summer STEM camp, as well as athletic programs like soccer, basketball and tennis. I want to engage younger students on our campus to open the door to possibilities they may not have been aware of before.

You bring more than 40 years of leadership experience to Bradley. How will you apply those skills moving Bradley forward?

I am a collaborative leader—I welcome ideas and feedback. I want to hear from staff, faculty and students at Bradley to get their insights on academics and campus so I know what Bradley can do to make Bradley even better. We all need to be working toward a common goal—providing our students a world class education and preparing them for a successful career.

Bradley is an important part of the community with a remarkable history. I've been on the board of trustees for over seven years, most recently as chairman since February 2024, so I felt a responsibility to step up and lead this great institution until we find a permanent president. I am serving in an interim role, but I do want to make a positive impact during my time here.

What type of leader are you seeking for the next president? What does that process look like?

We're looking for somebody who will create a strong vision for the future of Bradley University. We are looking for a true leader. Someone who our faculty, staff and students will stand behind. Someone who recognizes the incredible value of this university and the university community.

After interviewing several agencies, we've hired executive search and leadership advisory firm Russell Reynolds to represent us in the presidential search. Once top candidates have been identified, we have a committee of 12 people representing staff, faculty, students and trustees who will meet with candidates and make the final decision. I will be a non-voting member of the committee. We are expecting this search to go through April 2025, with a new president possibly starting next summer, but our main goal is to find the right person for the university. (See Presidential Search on page 26.)



What are some of the exciting projects happening on campus?

There are so many great initiatives currently happening at Bradley that will benefit students for years to come. We received a generous \$1 million commitment from Polly Barton and her late husband Glen to create The Glen and Polly Barton Clinic for Fitness and Function located in Campustown. The pro bono clinic was previously operating on the third floor of Olin Hall, providing physical therapy, occupational therapy and other health services to Peoria residents who don't have access to those services. The new clinic will serve more patients in an expanded facility with upgraded equipment.

Over the summer, capital grant funding from the state of Illinois allowed us to renovate the classrooms and research labs in Olin Hall. We're also using this funding to modernize and expand Williams Dining Hall. The spacious addition will have more seating and provide an incredible view of campus. Both of these projects have significant impacts for students and faculty and will help recruit new students to campus—which goes back to my first goal of increasing enrollment.

We're also excited that T-Mobile chose Bradley to leverage its 5G Advanced Network Solutions to create a student-centric digitally-connected campus. Through this initiative, all students, full-time faculty and student-facing staff received iPads provided by T-Mobile including an unlimited 5G data plan and apps designed to create a digital community throughout campus. This partnership allows us to improve digital equity for students, advance their success and create a rich learning environment for the entire campus.

Before your current role as interim president, you served as the chair of the board of trustees. Neither is an easy job—why do you feel compelled to serve the university?

Peoria has been my home for more than 40 years. I believe what's best for Peoria is best for Bradley and vice versa. There's so much to love about Bradley, and I want everyone to truly understand the incredible impact the university has on the community.


The backbone of Bradley University—the staff and faculty—come to work each day to ensure students have a transformative experience. Their dedication and thoughtfulness are truly the hallmarks of this institution and I'm continually impressed with them.

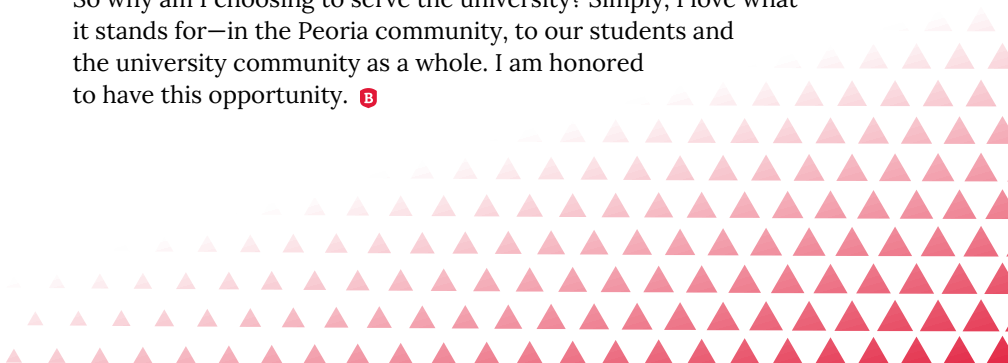
The students inspire me every day. I'm always amazed when I hear about the research and activities they're involved in and it makes me proud to see how they are working to improve their community—and they have fun doing it! Our fraternities and sororities actively participate with local nonprofits through fundraising and community clean-ups. Last year, students dedicated their Capstone project to tackle food insecurity locally.

Our student-athletes are making a positive impact by mentoring local grade school students in Peoria Public Schools through the Power of Sport Initiative. Each month, Bradley student-athletes visit each of the 20 primary and secondary schools to interact with the students by reading, tutoring math and serving as role models.

These are just some of the hundreds of examples I've heard as a board member and now interim president.

We are also fortunate to have such an involved and vast alumni network. Our alumni are generous and our greatest asset when recruiting new students. The success stories coming from alumni are a true testament to the importance of a Bradley education. The alumni voice is incredibly valuable.

So why am I choosing to serve the university? Simply, I love what it stands for—in the Peoria community, to our students and the university community as a whole. I am honored to have this opportunity. 





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PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH



Bradley University is searching for its 13th president, with the hopes of filling the role by the end of the 2024-2025 academic year. The future president will guide a talented senior leadership team and a dedicated campus community, all united by Bradley's mission to offer an education that goes well beyond the classroom.

The new president will play a key role in building relationships based on collaboration and trust with faculty, staff, students and alumni. They will also work closely with the City of Peoria and the wider business and civic communities in central Illinois, strengthening Bradley's partnerships across the region.

WHO IS LEADING THE SEARCH?

The university has employed national search firm Russell Reynolds to lead the process, along with a diverse Presidential Search Committee composed of faculty, staff, students and board members.

WHAT QUALITIES WILL THE NEW PRESIDENT BRING?

Bradley is looking for someone who understands both the challenges and possibilities of today's higher education landscape, and will be an engaging, innovative leader who makes smart executive decisions and isn't afraid to think creatively.

At the heart of it, Bradley's next president will embody Bradley's mission to empower students for success through a well-rounded mix of professional preparation, liberal arts and sciences, and co-curricular experiences.



LEARN MORE

For the Love of History

FINDING HOME IN A LIGHTHOUSE

BY JENEVIEVE ROWLEY-DAVIS



SHEILA CONSAUL '80

See how this alumna turned her passion for historical architecture into a lifelong project with a life-changing impact.



Growing up in a small town near Syracuse, N.Y., **Sheila Consaul '80** was awestruck by the storied homes with fascinating columns, pillars and porches. With the tales of the Finger Lakes at her fingertips, it's safe to say Consaul was a bona fide history lover before she ever made her way to Bradley.

Upon coming to BU, Consaul was thrilled at the opportunity to live and study amongst the astounding architecture of buildings like Bradley Hall, Westlake Hall, Dingledine Music Center and the rest of the Bradley campus. As the years passed and Consaul became a tour guide for the university, she became incredibly familiar with the rich history of BU and our founder, Lydia Moss Bradley. She became part of the university's history herself as a member of Bradley's first women's tennis team.

"It was so easy for me to show people around and be incredibly enthusiastic about what an amazing institution it is," Consaul said. "By the time I was giving tours my senior year, I had studied abroad, I had interned in Washington, D.C., I had played tennis—I had really taken advantage of a lot of opportunities."

That internship would lead to her first job on Capitol Hill. Starting out as a legislative assistant, Consaul would spend the next few decades in D.C., but she dreaded the hot, humid summers every year and wished for a cool respite. After graduate school, she started working in communications consulting and media training, and longed for a summer home. But just any old single-family wasn't going to fit the bill.

"I have always loved doing historic preservation work," Consaul said. "I worked on renovating a previous historic home in Manassas, Va."



Reaching out to her network for leads on potential historic homes, Consaul was intrigued to discover, per the National Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000, the General Services Administration (the federal government's real estate agency) was slowly making surplus lighthouses available to public buyers.

Thus began the years-long hunt to acquire one such surplus lighthouse.

HISTORY FOR SALE

Consaul's future home came on the market in 2009. Typically, these surplus lighthouses are first offered to the local community or historical society, and the case was no different here. However, the people of Fairport Harbor, Ohio were already at capacity. They had previously formed a historical society in the 1940s to take over a lighthouse in town, which lit the skies from 1825 until it was decommissioned in 1925 in favor of a new lighthouse—Consaul's future summer home. Thus, bidding for the Fairport Harbor West Breakwater Light was open to the public.

But Consaul wasn't the one with the winning bid.

The man who did win wanted to develop the lighthouse into a commercial venture, which the Army Corps of Engineers promptly refused as the building is on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2010, there was another auction and a new winner—he was also found in default. In 2011, the rules of the auction changed—if the winning bidder was found in default, then the second-highest bidder would get the first right of refusal.

Just over a week after the third auction closed, the highest bidder was found in default. Consaul, the second highest bidder, had secured the lighthouse.

REAL-DEAL RENOVATIONS

"I started renovating Fairport Harbor West Lighthouse in earnest in 2012," Consaul said. "It's been a very long road and I am still on it. It's sort of a perpetual project, but it's pretty much getting to the end. When I first went inside, it had not been painted or cared for since the last keepers moved out in 1948."

In the near-13 years she has owned Fairport Harbor West, Consaul's done a complete renovation. She's gone through nearly 150 gallons of paint inside and outside. Now outfitted with three full bedrooms, three full bathrooms, a kitchen, living room, dining room and laundry room, her home is about 3,000 square feet, sleeps about 10 and is completely off the grid—it's been run by solar since the '90s.

"The utilities have been the greatest challenge. We take for granted walking into a room and turning a switch and having the light come on, or having the



toilet flush, or having running water come out of the faucet. When you don't have that, it's a whole different ballgame.”

The positioning of Consaul's lighthouse—at the end of a breakwall only accessible by boat or on foot down a 20-minute path through a state park—made many of the logistics for renovation incredibly difficult. Equipment and supplies for the construction workers, plumbers and electricians had to either be carried in by hand or brought by boat. Large items like the kitchen cabinets, the granite for the countertops, the furniture and the generator had to be transported on a large barge with a crane.

Now, Consaul has composting toilets as well as a cistern in the basement, which is where she collects rainwater from the roof. The rainwater is treated and can be used for cooking, laundry and showers, though she's sure to specify it is not heated and it is not cooled. The logistics of simply living don't end there though, given the 20-minute walk it takes to get back to her car.

“I always take a backpack both ways. I subscribe to the pack it in, pack it out philosophy. Every time you go out, you take trash, recyclables. Then when you come back in, you're hauling supplies.”

It's a lot of work. But, there are quiet moments too.



“The weather watching is incredible. You can watch storms come from far away. They have a lot of water spouts, tremendous thunder and lightning storms in the summer.”

Plus, the renovation process has brought her closer to other Bradley alumni. “I’ve been very fortunate in that I know several Bradley alums who live in the area and others have traveled to help me renovate.”

With everything from painting, to hauling supplies, to design advice, Bradley alums including: **David Boettner ’80; Neal Willen ’80; Joyce Klekowski Bowers ’83 and Dennis Bowers ’81; Nancy Cooney Taub ’80 and Larry Taub ’80; Bob Thuss ’78; Julie Lynch Leonard ’80 and John Leonard ’75** as well as Consaul’s first Bradley roommate, **Cindy Baker ’79** have all offered a helping hand.



L to R: Dennis Bowers ’81, Avery Schneider ’83, Patrick Kelley ’80, Tammie Klein, Joyce Klekowski Bowers ’83 and Sheila Consaul ’80.

SHARING THE STORY

Nowadays, Consaul’s relationship with the lighthouse is largely defined by her relationship with the community and the lighthouse’s visitors. Much like the tours she used to give on Bradley’s campus, Consaul takes great pride in sharing the history behind her storied home.

“It’s really important for me to embrace that I’m just a steward of the lighthouse. I happen to be the one who bought it, the one who’s repairing it and I get to spend my summers here, but hopefully, it will be there another hundred years. It was part of this community way before I bought it.”

On top of offering private tours (and doing her day job remotely) while at the lighthouse in the summer, Consaul hosts an open house for the community every year around the lighthouse’s birthday—it was first lit on June 9, 1925, and the beacon still functions as an active aid to navigation. It is wired and maintained by the Coast Guard separately from all of Consaul’s equipment.

“I’ve been very fortunate in that I know several Bradley alums who live in the area and others have traveled to help me renovate.”

“People have all of these notions about lighthouse keepers and the history and what happens at different lighthouses. There are so many movies, shows, books and podcasts that explore lighthouse living. I can see why people are curious,” Consaul explained. “It can be very, very lonely out there. Once the park closes at dusk, I’m pretty much locked in and I’m out there by myself if a storm comes through.”

Consaul finds herself in rare company, as more and more lighthouses fall victim to erosion or natural disasters or are decommissioned and face destruction.

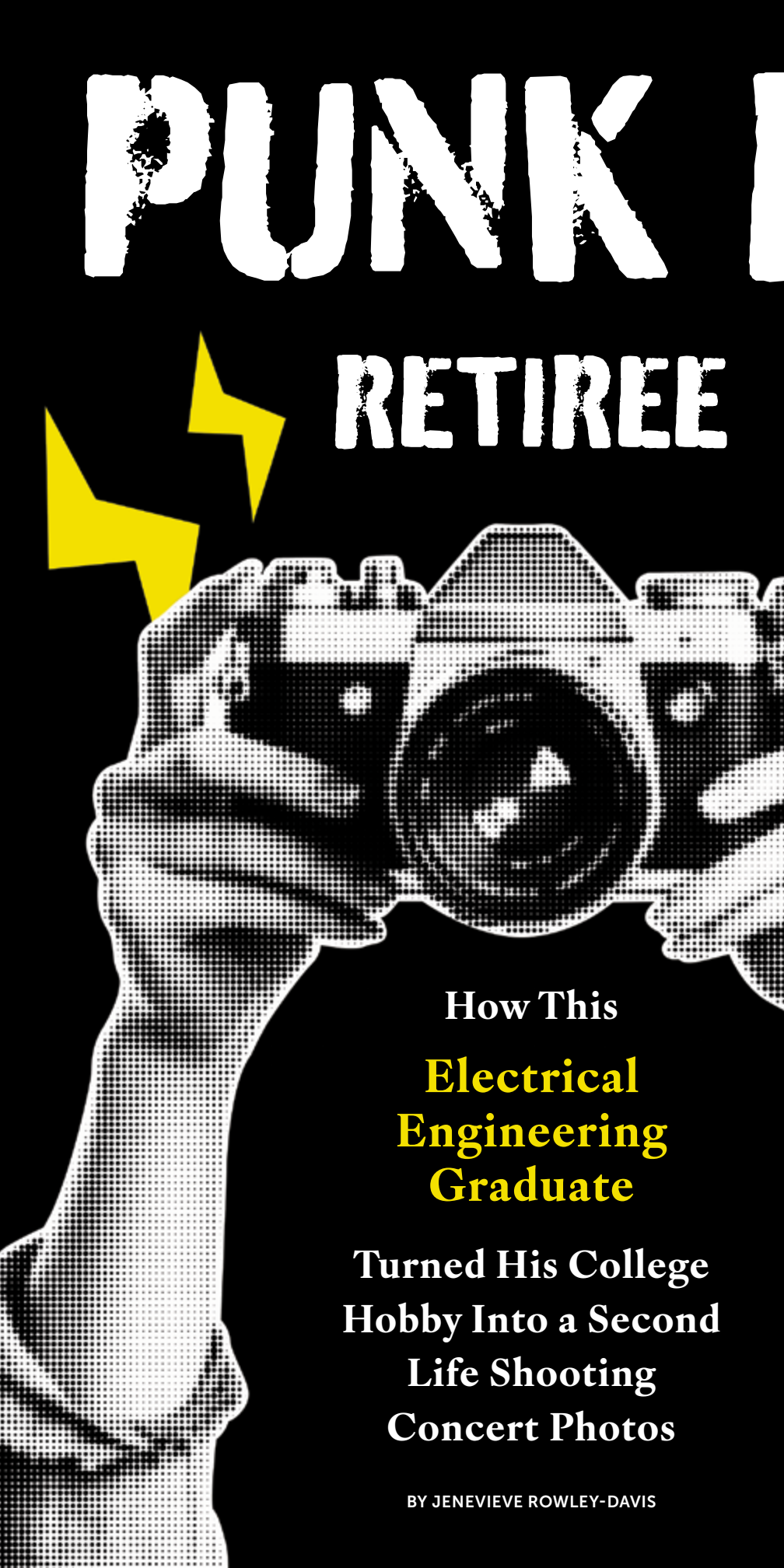
“They’re not building lighthouses anymore. There’s only so many of them left and they’re worth saving. They’re absolutely worth saving.” **B**

Concert photographer Rich Russo '84, featured on page 33, offered to travel to Ohio between music gigs to capture these photos of Consaul's historic lighthouse. Read more about Russo's and Consaul's meet-up on page 5.



PUNK

RETIREE

A black and white halftone illustration of a hand holding a camera, positioned as if taking a photo. The background is black with two bright yellow lightning bolts. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

How This **Electrical Engineering Graduate**

Turned His College
Hobby Into a Second
Life Shooting
Concert Photos

BY JENEVIEVE ROWLEY-DAVIS

ROCK

When Rich Russo '84 retired after 33 years at Connecticut Light & Power Co., the voices of doubt were all around him. Even his accountant couldn't understand why he would want to retire at 58. But Russo was tired of being tied down, and wanted to live life with no regrets.

At a fateful punk show not long after, Russo and his son were perusing the merch table for Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls. The frontman, Turner, appreciated the sight of a father and son bonding at a concert. Russo followed the band around for a few shows, taking pictures from the audience and becoming fast friends with Turner. One thing led to another, and eventually Russo shared his photos with the official tour photographer, who would go on to mentor Russo in the craft.

As a student, Russo had dabbled in photographing rockabilly artists The Elvis Brothers in the BU Student Center, never knowing he would someday be living his passion. "At BU, being amongst new friends from all walks of life, I was exposed to hard rock, blues, and most importantly, punk rock and new wave music," Russo said, adding a stint his sophomore year in which he followed The Who on their first farewell tour.

Now, with countless concerts under his belt, Russo travels the country covering bands for *Music Madness Magazine*. Here, he's compiled a handful of the shots captured along the way, including some of Gary Numan, KISS, and even a bit of wildlife photography. True to the punk philosophy, Russo really is living with no regrets.



KISS

One of the most iconic bands in rock history, KISS is known for their stage show as much as their music. I photographed them on the farewell tour stop in Hartford, Conn., in 2022. Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley, the remaining original members, may be in their 70s but they still have the energy to perform like 30 year olds.

Seeing the boots and outfit that Simmons wears, I doubt I could perform like him when I was a Bradley student!

LESS THAN JAKE

I photographed the last Vans Warped Tour when it hit the sunny beaches of Atlantic City in 2019. The lineup was packed with great artists like Blink-182, The Offspring, Bad Religion, etc., but my favorite photo from that weekend was of Chris DeMikes from the Florida-based ska-punk band Less Than Jake. Chris is known for his enthusiastic stage performance. I happened to be in the right place at the right time to capture his wild energy with the Vans screen displayed on the background monitor.

THE STRUTS

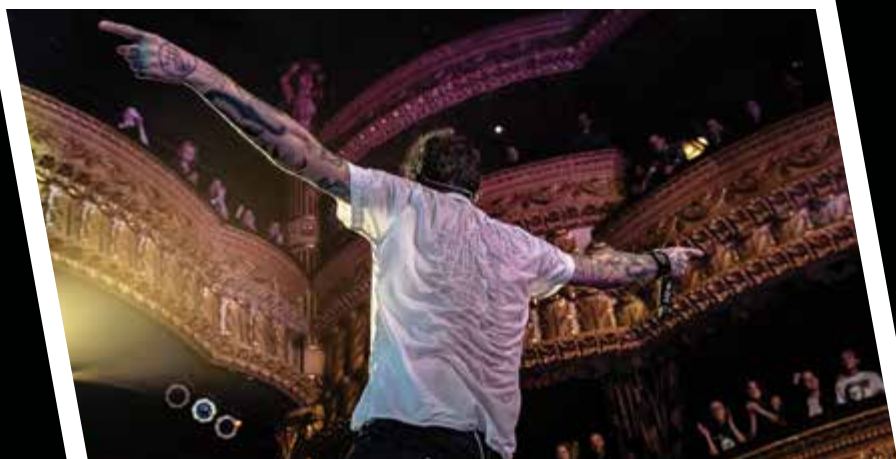
Sometimes, I find images are more striking in black and white than color. This is The Struts lead vocalist, Luke Spiller, from their 2023 performance at Boston's House of Blues. The colors from the lighting behind him seemed to take the viewer's attention away from the subject, whereas in black and white, the focus is on Luke.

NOFX

Sometimes, a concert photographer gets to capture some silly moments on stage. NOFX brought their "Punk In Drublic" festival to Legend Valley in Thornville, Ohio, where a dinosaur joined the band on stage. The band had as much fun with their guest as the crowd had watching the interaction.







FRANK TURNER & THE SLEEPING SOULS

The band that kickstarted me back into concert photography is Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls. I first saw them in 2010, when they opened for Social Distortion and was taken aback by their energy and stage presence. I followed the tour with my son, who was 16 at the time, and was a big Social D fan. I've become friends with Frank and I have full access to their shows which enabled me to get shots of him riding the crowd at his show at Chicago's House of Blues. One of those photos made it into a photo book that accompanied his greatest hits package.

GARY NUMAN


I have been fortunate to photograph Gary Numan several times over the years and we've become friends. I was a fan of his during my time at Bradley in the early '80s, and now I have full access when photographing his shows. I was honored to work with him and his band during his 40th anniversary tour at London's legendary Roundhouse Theater, as well as his 1,000th show at London's Electric Ballroom.

RAMONES

Back in the '80s, small clubs and bands didn't care if people brought cameras to shows. I was able to get some shots of the Ramones when they played Toad's Place in New Haven, Conn. I was also fortunate to meet them and have them sign some photos. Sadly, Joey, Johnny and Dee Dee are no longer with us, but they will forever reside on my wall.

WILDLIFE

I've become a fan of wildlife photography as of late. A few years ago, there were several snowy owls wintering along the Connecticut shoreline. I had seen this old chair along this spit of land in different locations. Not sure who was moving it or why, but one day, I was lucky to capture one of the owls perched on the back of the chair.

If you wish to see some amazing wildlife photography, visit the website of Bradley graduate, Mary Jo Cox '85. 



BRIDGING G

Engineering a Future W

While working on the biggest project of his career, this alumnus proves all roads lead back to Bradley.

BY EMILY POTTS

Peering across the Illinois River from East Peoria to Peoria on Highway 150, you can't help but notice—and be captivated by—a massive arch beside the historic McClugage bridge. This modern bridge structure is set to replace the current two-lane eastbound bridge that has been in service since 1948 following World War II. Traffic flowed both ways on the original structure until 1982, when an additional three-lane bridge was erected directly north of it to accommodate westbound traffic.

Although the new design is distinctly different, it's structurally necessary, as resident engineer

John Love '00 explained. "It's a testament to future engineering design standards, yet it pays tribute to the past. The old bridges are beautiful and should be celebrated for the ingenuity of past generations, but the change from a truss to an arch design will be more sustainable and cost effective in coming years." The new bridge also includes a recreational multi-use path.

Love, who works for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), has been overseeing the construction inspection since 2019—it's the largest and longest-running project he's worked on



GENERATIONS

While Honoring the Past

to date. He started working with IDOT as an intern in 1998, when he was studying civil engineering at Bradley, and he's been there ever since. "I was fortunate enough to be a part of the upgrade I-74 projects through downtown Peoria from 2005 to 2007, and in Morton from 2013 to 2016," he said. "But as an overall cost comparison, the McClugage Bridge project dwarfs those individual projects by about four times."

ENGINEERING EXPECTATIONS

Love works with approximately 15 engineers and engineering technicians to ensure compliance and safety standards are maintained, while monitoring costs and providing real-time updates to the local district, among other things. Let's just say he puts in long hours each week, because the to-do list is never-ending. Out of pure necessity, he's

sharpened his time management and organizational skills.

"We might have 10 to 15 activities going on each day—with up to 100 construction workers—such as building a pier while we're setting beams, pouring a deck, building barrier walls, etc., and I can't be at all of them. Each morning, I pinpoint which activities will require my attention and then balance that time with any necessary paperwork that is a requirement of the job," he explained. "It's a lot of pressure, but I've got a lot of good people around me."

One of the biggest hurdles is working over a body of water that is three-quarters of a mile wide. The river itself is not very deep for most of the length of the bridge, with the exception being the main channel crossing.

“It’s only two-feet deep at normal levels, which makes it difficult to gain access to the various parts of the structure that are being built. The water needs to be at a certain level so you can float boats and barges with heavy equipment in,” Love explained. He and his crew must also coordinate with the U.S. Coast Guard and Army Corps for any big movements since the Illinois River is a heavy commercial highway with barges carrying millions of dollars of natural resources every day between the Gulf and the Great Lakes.

“You’re only given 48- or 72-hour windows to do that work because they can’t afford to have the main river channel closed. It would be like shutting down the Dan Ryan Expressway in Chicago,” Love said. “They’ll let you do it for short increments.”

A COLLEGE COURSE-CORRECTION

Love grew up in Pekin, Ill., near Peoria, and currently lives in Tremont with his wife Amie and their four children—two of whom attend Bradley. When he started college—first at Illinois Central College, then University of Wyoming—he thought he’d pursue a career in math or physics. However, after a few



years in school—and just one semester shy of graduating—he shifted gears and transferred to Bradley to pursue civil engineering.

“I decided it was the best of both worlds (physics and math). I was also homesick and needed to grow up a little,” Love admitted, adding it was the best decision he ever made. Bradley’s engineering program provided him the space he needed to grow and professional opportunities he wouldn’t otherwise have been given. He also met his wife shortly after returning to central Illinois, and she now works at Bradley with his former professor, Dr. Kris Maillacheruvu, the interim dean of the Caterpillar College of Engineering and Technology.

“It was Dr. Maillacheruvu’s first year at Bradley when I had him as a professor and I really enjoyed his class,” Love said. “Simply put, he knew the material he was teaching and was excellent at conveying it to students. Individually, if something wasn’t clicking, he was always available to help those who wanted to help themselves.”

BEYOND THE BRIDGE

Though his job consumes much of his time lately—and he admits that is self-imposed because he has a hard time leaving work at work—in his free time he enjoys watching his kids' extracurricular activities, including sports, music and theater. “They are all very talented and it never gets old. I hope when they get older, my kids will understand why I was working so much and learn to appreciate the efforts of those working on construction projects.”

When the McClugage bridge is finished, Love is planning two trips. He and Amie want to travel to Scotland—a bucket list item for both—and he wants to take his youngest son on a week-long adventure before he graduates from high school.

They'll have to wait a little while, as the project isn't expected to be complete until summer 2025. He hopes that by early December, the new bridge will be open to traffic. Once that happens, the old eastbound bridge will be taken down—the main truss will be imploded and the rest will be dismantled, piece by piece.



“The community has been very supportive through the duration of the project and the excitement's grown every day as more and more of it becomes visible to the public,” Love said. He attributes the support to the continued service of the existing bridges.

Love is proud of the efforts of everyone who has contributed to this construction project the past five years. “It's a large group effort to make something like this happen. I have been blessed to work with so many great engineers, trade workers and contractors,” he explained. “I love driving through past projects knowing I contributed to something much greater than any individual could ever achieve.”

Bradley has been a conduit for so many positive things in Love's world, including the mentors and lifelong friendships he's gained along the way. “Bradley has been forever impactful in my life's journey in so many ways that I can't imagine having made any other choice on where to finish college.” **B**

A recent grad creates an endowment in honor of his coach to ensure opportunities for the men's golf team.

Often, it's the simple gestures that make a lasting impact—a smile from a stranger when you're having a bad day; someone holding the door when you're running late; or a friend checking in when you need it most. For **John Stillman '23, MBA '24**, it was several gestures from Bradley Men's Golf Coach, Jeff Roche—big and small—that left an indelible mark. “Coach Roche gave me an opportunity to join Bradley as a walk-on. I was just looking for a shot out of high school and he believed in me when I was struggling to find opportunities,” Stillman explained.

Beyond the green, Roche was a guiding beacon to Stillman throughout his Bradley journey, encouraging him in his academic endeavors, and just making a point to check in often. “Coach Roche would always send text messages to wish me luck on a test, and he was the first to ask how it went afterward.”

This kind of encouragement and support made a lasting impact with Stillman, who received his bachelor's degree in political science in 2023, then his MBA in 2024. He played on the golf team all five years, qualifying for an additional year due to COVID. He earned an MVC Scholar-Athlete second-team recognition in the 2023-24 season and MVC Scholar-Athlete Honorable Mention for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons.

He attributes his success to the support he received from faculty and staff, most notably his coach. “Coach Roche has been one of the most influential people in my life, not only as a golf coach, but beyond the course. In today's NCAA landscape, funding is one of the most important pieces for teams to be competitive,” Stillman explained.

To honor Roche and ensure opportunities for future students on the men's golf team, Stillman created the Jeff Roche Endowed Excellence Fund, committing \$100,000 over the next five years. This fund is also a tribute to his parents' legacy as fellow alumni. **Michael '91** and **Denise Miarecki Stillman '92** met at Bradley as residential advisors and were thrilled when John chose their alma mater.

“Bradley is special to my family, and it provided so many opportunities I wouldn't have found at other schools. I'm forever grateful for my time there and how it has prepared me for my next chapter in life,” Stillman said. **B**

PAR FOR THE COURSE

A LEGACY OF SUPPORT & SUCCESS

BY EMILY POTTS



“Coach Roche always preached to leave places better than we found it. Bradley Golf has changed my life, and I want to encourage a new generation of former student-athletes to give back.”

Like John Stillman, you can empower future generations by endowing a scholarship or special fund at Bradley University. With your support, deserving students can pursue their dreams and achieve academic excellence. Learn more about how you can create a meaningful legacy and make a difference in students' lives for years to come.

To learn more, please call Charlie Roy
at (309) 677-2241 or croy@bradley.edu.



class notes

1960s and 1970s

James Yerbic '67 was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Elmhurst University in Elmhurst, Ill. Yerbic served on the Board of Trustees for 26 years, and is currently a Trustee Emeritus.



Bill '73 and Sharon Goodwin '74 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 12, 2024.



Major League Baseball named **Steve Weller '77**, the official scorer for the 2024 All-Star game. Weller has been an official scorer for 30 seasons and has worked four World Series (2010, 2011, 2020 and 2023) as well as the World Baseball Classic in Tokyo. A former student assistant to BU Athletic Hall of Fame member Joe Dalfonso, Weller spent 24 years as a sports information director and served as a baseball press officer at the 1984 (Los Angeles) and 1988 (Seoul, South Korea) Olympics.

1980s



"We're just picking up where we left off!" was the theme of this '86 class reunion/60th birthday celebration trip in Reunion, Fla. Top, left to right: **Pamela Eby Coady, Marcia Wexelberg May, Nina Volungis Murray, Kristin Anderson Ketelhut.** Bottom, left to right: **Beth Cameron Pearson, Beth Panizzi Moore, Margaret Miranda.**

Chris Brathwaite '89 was named vice president and chief communications officer at American Electric Power, based in Columbus, Ohio.

1990s

Dr. Norrine Russell '90, Founder and CEO of Russell Coaching for Students, has a new podcast available on Apple called *ADHD, Autism, and Anxiety: Breaking Out of the Box*, featuring inspiring stories, practical suggestions and wisdom to help professionals and parents.

David Van Dixhorn '94, was recently named chief development officer at Abacus Architects based at the firm's Sheboygan, Wis., office.

Becky O'Hearn '99, a Pre-K teacher at Frederick Stock School in Chicago, received the prestigious Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. O'Hearn is one of 10 award recipients in Illinois.



Good Morning America chose **Christina Estes' '91** debut mystery, *Off the Air*, as a Buzz Pick. Christina's award-winning journalism career inspired her to write about a TV reporter investigating the suspicious death of a controversial radio talk show host.

2000s

Mat Fletcher MS '00, a senior vice president and the railway market principal at Hanson Professional Services Inc., recently celebrated 25 years of service with the company. Working at the Peoria office, Fletcher directs the firm's business development efforts and operations serving the railroad industry nationwide.

Tommy Choi '03, has been named the 2025 Illinois Realtors® president. He is the 100th president in the association's history and the first of Asian and Korean descent. He is cofounder and owner of Weinberg Choi Residential at Keller Williams in Chicago.



Myskeshia Mitchell '01 MA '10, a counselor at Peoria High School, was named Illinois High School Counselor of the Year through the Illinois School Counselor Association. She was selected from hundreds of other nominated school counselors in the state. "My actions show students that I genuinely care, and being recognized

for the work I am passionate about makes it purposeful," Mitchell said.

Jerry Bedor Phillips, MFA '10, exhibited his solo exhibition "Reached er Belau" at Catapult Creative House in Cape Girardeau, Mo., in March 2024, with the Southeastern Missouri State University Department of Art & Design. The exhibition is a continuation into Phillips' exploration in the history of the Republic of Palau, a small archipelago in Micronesia, and the parallel connections with his family's personal history.

Aimée Moy '18, joined the Alden Network in Chicago as a Qualified Intellectual Disability Professional.

Hannah Engel '20, an aviation civil engineer at Hanson Professional Services Inc.'s Springfield, Ill. headquarters, earned her professional engineer license in Illinois.



Michael Kuzma '20, inventor of the Kuzma Self-Playing Guitar, recently attended the MARS 2024 event hosted by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. His self-playing guitar performed during cocktail hour and dinner for astronauts, technology innovators and leaders in the world of automation. Bezos called Kuzma a madman when his robotic guitar played at a humanly impossible speed of 44 notes per second. Also in attendance was Grammy award-winning artist Jewel (pictured with Kuzma), who watched the self-playing guitar perform her hit song, "You Were Meant For Me."

Dr. Charla Lewis GRD '22, has been appointed vice president of Academic Affairs at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Previously, she was the dean of the College of Arts and Education.

bells & rattles

1. **DeLonda Dowling '90** and Steven Bonasera, Oct. 13, 2023
2. **Emily Foster '17** and **Steven Wenzel '17**, May 20, 2023
3. **Casey Swircz '08** and Sal Wilson, Aug. 9, 2024
4. **Emily Brown '19** and **Kyle Job '19**, Nov. 11, 2023
5. **Caroline Maddalozzo '16** and **Jack Heinz '16**, May 11, 2024
6. **Amanda Brown '18** and **Ben Miller '17**, March 23, 2024
7. Nick and **Lorie Anne Otz, MSW '14**, Honey Otz, July 8, 2023
8. **Jason '16** and **Ariel Persaud '16**, Declan Persaud, March 21, 2024
9. **Johnna Bond '04** and Michael Szczurko, Vivian Marie Szczurko, April 29, 2024
10. **Nathan '16** and **Jenny Adlington '16**, Carter Adlington, Feb. 28, 2024
11. **Nicholas '12** and **Andrea Maggione '12**, Giorgio John Paul Maggione, Aug. 23, 2024





passages

BRADLEY EMERITI REMEMBERED



James Goodnow, 3/22/24

1987–2007, Coordinator and Professor of International Business, Foster College of Business Emeritus

**Emeritus of International Business
in the Foster College of Business**

James Goodnow was integral to the development of Bradley's International Business Program during his 20-year teaching career. His research and publication activities focused on international mode of entry strategies, international business curriculum content, export and import strategies for small and

medium-sized firms, as well as the evolution of international strategies of firms based in China and the Czech Republic. He was published in the Journal of International Business Studies (including an article for which he is a co-recipient of a JIBS Decade Award), Journal of Consumer Marketing, International Marketing Review, Prague Economic Papers and elsewhere. In 2023, Goodnow received the Distinguished Service Award from the Academy of International Business.



Chris Kasch, 8/27/24

1991–2019, Associate Professor of Communication, Slane College of Communications and Fine Arts

Chris Kasch was a deep, and forward-thinking teacher-scholar. Known as a visionary who anticipated societal changes, he was the first faculty member in the communications department to venture into online instruction. He was a principal architect of the Organizational Communication major, and one of the main writers of the Sports Communication major. Kasch was a popular, engaging

instructor who was dedicated to his students. His colleague, Paul Gullifor, recalled, "Whenever you asked Chris how he was doing, his response was always the same: 'average bear.' But there was nothing average about him. Chris will be remembered fondly for the countless lives he touched."



Joan Kulpa, 9/13/24

1973–1995, Associate professor of Nursing

Joan Kulpa joined Bradley University's Nursing Department in 1973, as an associate professor. Before earning her Masters in Medical-Surgical Nursing and a Doctor of Education degrees, she taught at St. Anthony Hospital School of Nursing in Rockford, Ill., and served in the Third Order of St. Francis where she was known as Sister Mary Mark. When she realized she no longer wanted to be a nun, she requested and received a Papal dispensation from her vows. After retirement

from Bradley, she established the Joseph S. and Helen M. Kulpa Memorial Scholarship in Nursing in 1994, named after her parents, and the Dr. Joan M. Kulpa Endowed Scholarship in Nursing in 2000, to reward academic excellence and to promote her belief in the importance of nursing education. Always in pursuit of knowledge, Joan was a member of Bradley's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI).



Sharon McBride, '61, MS '87, 3/23/24

1972–2010, Undergraduate Student Advisor/Coordinator Student Affairs, College of Engineering and Technology.

Sharon McBride retired in 2010 after more than 25 years serving the university as an undergraduate student advisor and student affairs coordinator for the College of Engineering and Technology. Active in her community, she represented the city of West Peoria as a CityLink Transit Board member for over 27 years, and was recognized as the APTA (American Public Transportation Association) Outstanding Public Transportation Board Member in 2020. In 1970, she founded the West Peoria Independence Day Parade and Flag Raising Ceremony—the longest running Independence Day Parade in Illinois. Sharon was also a columnist for the Community Word Newspaper, a West Peoria Township Trustee, a member of the West Peoria Zoning Board and a member of the Western Ave Greenway Committee.

BRADLEY STAFF AND FACULTY REMEMBERED

Patricia Campbell '08, 6/25/24

1985–2024, Supervisor of administration, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Patricia Campbell was an integral part of our campus community. In her nearly 40-year career with Bradley University, she served as a mentor, friend and trusted resource for many. She had a relentless work ethic and a deep love for Bradley and LAS. In recognition of her commitment to excellence, LAS established the Patricia Campbell Award for Outstanding Service in 2015, making her the first recipient. The award is now bestowed annually to a well-deserving staff member in the college.



Erich Stabenau, 9/26/24

1996–2024, Professor of Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Erich Stabenau joined Bradley in 1996, earned tenure in 2002 and became a full professor in 2008. His passion for teaching and the environment has left a profound impression on countless students and colleagues. He was a mentor, trusted friend, and source of inspiration to many. Students both admired and cursed his attention to detail. He mentored multiple graduate students and served as their graduate

advisor on their committees to ensure they completed their master's degree. Stabenau was the recipient of the First Year Faculty Award and the Caterpillar New Faculty Achievement Awards for Teaching and Scholarship which recognized his exemplary teaching methods. He served the university community in many roles, including time as the chair of the Biology Department, the OTEFD Director for Research Development and as the co-director of the Criterion 6 assessment committee during the 2009–2010 NCA accreditation visit.

1940s

Ann Steinau '43, 2/26/24

Eileen Hughes '44, 3/25/24

Imogene Speck '44, 6/13/24

Donald Peterson '49, 4/15/24

Wilmer White '49, 6/28/24

1950s

Winifred Ebert '50, 4/9/24

Harold Neuberger '50, 2/22/24

Martha Norcross '50, 2/14/24

Carlajeane (Hollis) Rebbe '50, 3/24/24

John Rush '50, MS '58, 3/14/24

Laverne Bergan '51, 4/20/24

Margaret Duhs '51, 2/19/24

Wayne Howarth '51, 2/28/24

Hamilton Jones '51, 5/19/24

George Scott, Jr. '51, 3/8/22

Jesse Fahnders '54, 4/21/24

Robert Gleckler '54, 7/29/24

Edward Harkrader '54, MS '56, 4/11/24

Herbert Schiff '54, 7/3/24

Lt. Col. Roy Wheeler '54, 4/22/24

Harvey Babetch '55, 2/29/24

Harry Brehm '55, 5/17/24
 James Key '55, 3/1/24
 Charles Lewis '55, 2/3/24
 Fred Dickman '56,
 4/24/24
 Jean Marshall '56,
 6/24/24
 Carl Weorner '56, 6/7/24
 Rodger Clemmer '57, MS
 '63, 2/17/24
 Richard Dunn '57, 4/10/24
 Alice Flocken '57, 7/18/24
 Rosemarie Jacobus '57,
 9/5/24
 Larry Lechtner '57, 4/1/24
 Elliott Leen '57, 9/15/19
 Terry Powell '57, 3/3/24
 James Thomson '57,
 8/14/24
 Everett Fight '58, 2/1/23
 Merlin Foresman '58,
 3/30/24
 Ronald Happach '58, MS
 '71, 3/30/24
 James Pearce '58, 8/31/24
 Ralph Powell '58, 7/10/24
 Edmund Schindel '58,
 3/28/24
 Roland Smith '58, 7/7/24
 Larry Strantz '58, 1/20/24
 Timothy Villager '58,
 5/30/24
 Harold Brown '59, 8/4/24
 Garth Knobeloch '59, '72,
 2/19/24
 Daniel Nuter '59, 4/4/24
 George Rumpf '59,
 9/20/24
 Allen Schumacher '59,
 9/16/24

1960s

Eugene Coughlon '60,
 3/1/24
 Marian Lien '60, 3/12/24
 Michael McManus '60,
 9/2/24
 Thomas Meyer '60, MS
 '68, 4/5/24
 Herman Saettler '60,
 7/20/24
 JaneSteinmetz '60,
 6/16/24
 Edith Stubbs '60, MS '81,
 3/22/24

Stanley VanDerSnick '60,
 2/18/24
 Keith Bane '61, 6/7/24
 David Bergman '61,
 2/15/24
 Allan Duus '61, 7/26/23
 Rodney Horner '61,
 2/15/24
 William Ost '61, 5/25/24
 George Albrecht '62, MS
 '65, 9/20/24
 Owen Arvin '62, MS '64,
 2/1/24
 Robert Batch '62, 5/29/24
 Ronald Dennis '62,
 8/12/24
 Donald Doyle '62, 5/29/24
 Carl Gross, '62, 2/12/24
 Mary John '62, 3/23/24
 Judith Morse '62,
 9/24/24
 Robert Stokoe '62,
 11/22/23
 Chet "The Jet" Walker '62,
 6/8/24
 William Wiseman '62,
 8/18/24
 Jack Andrews '63,
 3/26/24
 John Bonham '63, 3/13/24
 Phillip Dawson '63, MS
 '73, 2/19/24
 Dixie Dixon '63, 4/2/24
 George Gregule '63,
 4/15/24
 Melvin Long '63, 5/10/24
 Sanford Sarff '63, 3/24/24
 Kenneth VanNattan '63,
 3/28/24
 Arno Wehr '63, 3/14/24
 Dale Wise '63, MA '69,
 8/26/24
 Dennis Jensen '64, 2/3/24
 Donald Johnson '64,
 4/24/24
 Madoline Kozlevcar '64,
 4/8/24
 Willard Rissmiller '64,
 4/16/24
 Keith Alm '65, 9/5/24
 Paul Book, '65, 2/24/24
 Donald Hickey '65,
 9/3/24
 Robert Majeske '65,
 4/27/24

Nora Robertson '65,
 7/27/24
 James Petersen '65,
 5/29/24
 Gerald Slane '65, 5/26/24
 Betty Volturmo '65,
 9/7/24
 John Allshouse '66,
 3/11/24
 Kenneth Busch '66,
 6/12/24
 Ralph Hermann '66,
 8/14/24
 David Hoffman '66,
 9/25/24
 M. M. McMullen '66,
 7/20/24
 John Murray '66, 7/14/24
 Gregory Ptacin '66,
 3/13/24
 Steve Romanowski '66,
 5/3/24
 Alfred Suarez '66,
 4/22/24 .
 Leslie Wicklund '66,
 4/9/24
 Lynne Clements '67,
 2/17/24
 William Durst '67,
 2/27/24
 Frederick Walter '67, '69,
 5/11/24
 Gregory Berry '68, 2/4/24
 Connie Bottens '68,
 9/30/24
 William Bried '68, 4/9/24
 Jacob Bunn '68, MA 71,
 8/24/24
 Harold Montville '68, MS
 '72, 3/7/24
 Douglas Springer '68, MS
 '71 & '99, 9/2/24
 Theodore Stahler '68,
 9/12/24
 Roger Stortz '68, 8/30/24
 Leigh Anderson '69,
 7/21/24
 Edmond Augspurger '69,
 7/15/24
 David Howell '69, 5/24/24
 Sue Moore '69, 5/11/24
 Robert Paulsell '69,
 8/5/24
 Thomas Rebb '69, 3/19/24
 Mary Riggs '69, 4/29/24
 Irving Woolf '69, 5/11/24

1970s

Richard Buckner '70,
9/26/24
Kent Elliott '70, 3/21/24
Neil Greenberg '70,
2/27/24
John Lindblom '70,
6/22/24
Larry Mau '70, 3/12/24
Roy Muni '70, 2/20/24
Gary Singley '70, 9/28/24
Michael Akin '71, 5/3/24
Carroll Besing '71, 4/10/24
John Clark '71, 3/9/24
James Cromer '71, 7/19/24
Achiel Dupont '71, 4/12/24
Arthur Friedman '71,
2/24/24
Cheryl Fuchs '71, 4/14/24
James Hagemann '71,
3/29/24
Glenn Kiersky '71,
6/23/24
John Lehman '71, 9/12/24
Bessie Parks '71, 3/30/24
Ann Propheter '71,
8/25/24
Steven Broquard '72,
5/19/24
Michael Firmand '72,
9/6/24
Gladys McCauley '72, MS
'74, 5/6/24
Neal Midenberg '72,
5/16/23
Michael Roeder '72,
6/30/24
Hunt Wagstaff '72,
12/17/23
Edward Meyer '73,
4/11/24

Joseph Palumbo '73,
7/5/24
Douglas Schweickert '73,
5/2/24
Mary Weindel '73,
2/25/24
Douglas Barr '74, 7/23/24
Joseph Clement '74,
6/30/24
James Combs '74, 5/29/24
Robert Atwater '75,
6/2/24
Mark Bucey, '75, 5/3/24
Michael Carter '75,
4/21/24
Glenn Brownfield '76,
6/7/24
Claude White '76,
9/27/24
Randy Worchester '76,
9/14/24
Kevin Ferguson '77, MS
'78, 3/16/24
Nathaniel Horn '77,
8/18/23
Joseph Martin '78,
8/18/24
Gerald Morrissey '78,
8/25/24

1980s

Alan Dremann '80,
6/27/24
David Lloyd '80, 4/7/24
Susan Weiss '80, 7/23/24
Virginia Tervola Shifflett '81, 7/10/24
Steven Smith '81, 5/22/24
Robert Chester '82,
2/22/24
Toni Strode '83, 5/22/24
Lloyd Crombie '84,
2/8/24

Calvin Stewart '85,
8/6/24
Maureen Duggan '86,
8/20/24
Gregory Gilbert '86,
7/16/24
Wendy Copeland '87,
7/23/24
Irene Behrends '89,
5/2/24

1990s

Kenneth Stahl '90,
4/24/24
Brian Smidesang '92,
9/28/24
Sean Zeller '92, 6/12/24
John Bowen '93, 4/24/24
Jeffrey Heckman '93, MA
'96, 8/15/24
Michael Piper '93,
1/20/24
Kenneth McAlpin '94,
9/21/24
Neil Schraith '94, MS '04,
3/24/24
Michelle Armbruster '95,
5/24/24
Alvin Wilcox '95, 3/5/24

2000s

Thomas McNeil '00,
4/12/24
Sandra Klatt '03, 8/11/24
Hellen Stevens '04,
5/6/24
Jonathan Kaplan '08, '17,
2/1/24
Alex Plane '20, 4/15/24
Correction:
Thomas Dini '83 passed
on 12/21/22 (not 2023).

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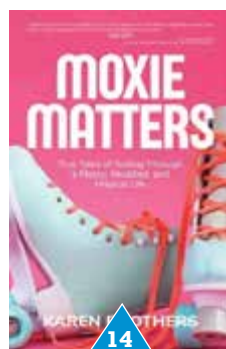
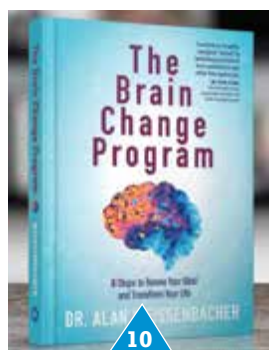
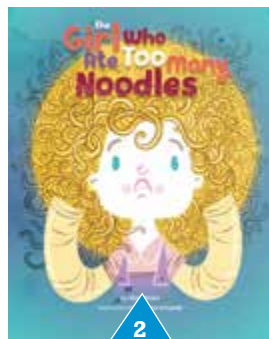
POLICIES

Submissions are included as space permits. They may be edited for length or clarity and may be published in any medium.

Send us your high resolution photos: minimum 1,200 pixels on the shortest side

alumni authors

1. *I Live a Quiet Life*
by **Jeanne C Rosenbohm '69**
2. *The Girl Who Ate Too Many Noodles*
by **Ellen Bender Akilov '11**
3. *The Apocalypse and Coming Kingdom*
by **Kenneth Behr '75**
4. *The Frankenstein Man*
by **Bill Smith '74**
5. *Our Lives in Verse, Everyday Poetry*
by **Ann Wirtz Brubaker '70**
6. *But But, I loved*
by **Scott Denys '79**
7. *Singlets and Secrets*
by **Joseph Chianakas '11**
8. *Saving by 10*
by **Mary Cantrell '70**
9. *Battlefield Missouri*
by **Arnold Montgomery '83**
10. *The Brain Change Program*
by **Alan Weissenbacher '97**
11. *Season of Shattered Dreams: Postwar Baseball, the Spokane Indians, and a Tragic Bus Crash That Changed Everything*
by **Eric Vickrey '01**
12. *The Modern Leader: Modern Leadership System*
by **Clifford Eagleton '58**
13. *Breaking the Spell*
by **Rocky Smolin '70**
14. *Moxie Matters, True Tales of Rolling Through a Messy, Muddled, and Magical Life*
by **Karen Brothers '92**
15. *Was ... Was that Jesus? 23 Years in a Jesus Commune*
by **Barbara Charles Pement '75**
16. *Incarnate*
by **Richard Thomas '90**
17. *All the Hits All the time*
by **Larry Coffman '71**

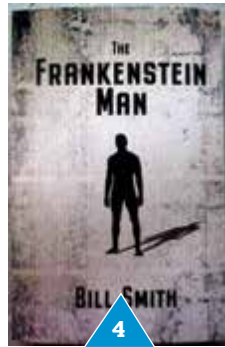




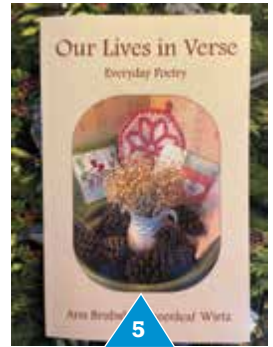
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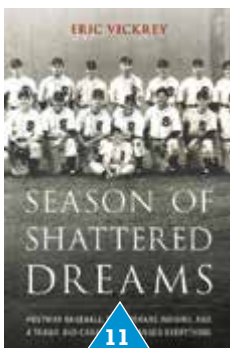
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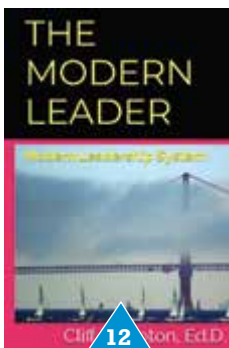
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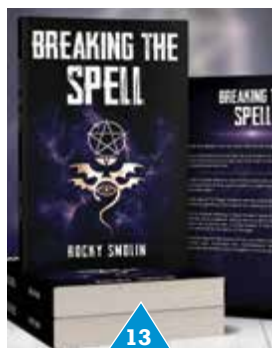
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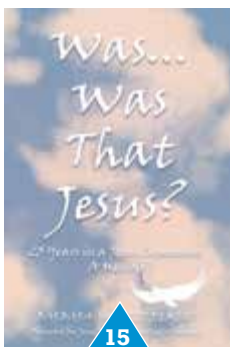
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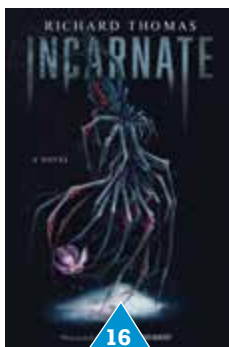
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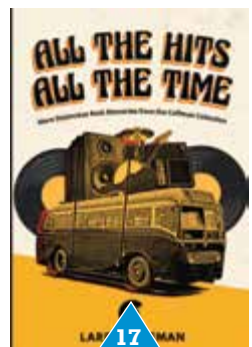
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Upcoming Events

Men's Basketball at University of Illinois Chicago Pregame

Jan. 11 | The Bandit

Doris J. Kolb Women in Music concert series featuring Gunhild Carling

Feb. 24 | Dingeldine Music Center

Men's Basketball Arch Madness

March 6-9 | Ballpark Village
St. Louis, MO

Women's Basketball MVC Tournament

March 13-16 | Evansville, IN

Bradley Theatre: John Proctor is the Villain

April 9-13 | Meyer Jacobs Theatre

BFA Thesis Exhibition Student Art

April 22-May 2 | Heuser Gallery

Planning your own reunion on campus or want to find out how you can start one?

Contact us at BUAlum@bradley.edu and we can help promote your upcoming reunion, or share information about campus event spaces that are perfect for hosting your group of returning Braves!

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Lasting Connections



Milwaukee Tool Career Fair



Bradley Homecoming Tailgate Party



Commemorating a Brave Legacy

Major Robert H. Lawrence Jr. '56 was the nation's first Black Astronaut whose more than 2,500 flight hours helped to develop the space shuttle that would take science into space exploration.

Bradley is proud to announce that Major Robert Lawrence's likeness will be captured in a life-sized sculpture, created by Fisher Stolz, chair of the Department of Art and Design, with the assistance of grad student **Liz Johnson '18**. This sculpture will be placed in front of Olin Hall in February, but we need help raising \$178,000 to go toward the costs of the sculpture and installation.

There are three matching gift opportunities that will help individual gifts go further. **BU Interim President Jon Michael** is matching every gift from faculty, staff and students. **David Ulmer '69** is matching every gift from BU alumni. **Dr. Don Glover** (emeriti professor), **Dr. Kurt Field** (emeriti professor), **Emma Taylor '75** (widow of Dr. Max Taylor), **Jerry Kolb '83** (son of emeriti professor **Dr. Ken Kolb '79** and emerita professor **Dr. Doris Kolb**), and more are matching every gift from alumni, faculty, staff and students within the Mund-Lagowski Chemistry Department. Those who make a gift of \$100 or more may have their name (or a name of their choosing) included on the sculpture.

Please consider donating today by scanning the QR code below or mailing a check to:



Bradley University Gift Records
1501 W. Bradley Ave.
Peoria, IL 61625
Please note "Major Robert Lawrence
Sculpture" on your check.

All funds raised that exceed the cost of this sculpture will go toward supporting Major Robert Lawrence's endowed scholarship and lecture fund for students majoring in chemistry or biochemistry.



Chicago Regional Alumni - Cubs Game



Pregame Cheerleader Reunion

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Making a gift to the Bradley Fund is more than a show of support for our university, it is an investment into the future success of students, faculty and staff for generations to come. From scholarships to cutting-edge campus resources, the Bradley Fund takes your generosity and provides unrestricted support that will be felt by both current and future Braves.

Join this long running tradition of Braves supporting one another by making a gift using the QR code below. If you've already made a gift to the Bradley Fund this year, thank you for being at the heart of what makes our mission possible.

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Carry On Our Founder's Legacy

Lydia Moss Bradley built our university on a legacy of determination, selflessness, loving support and hope for the future of others. Today, members of our Lydia Moss Bradley Society embody the spirit of our philanthropic founder through their own selflessness and dedication to Bradley. Alumni and friends have the opportunity to become members of the Lydia Moss Bradley Society on an annual basis by making fully unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Bradley Fund.

Thank you to
our 2023-24
Lydia Moss Bradley
Society Members!



Roberta (Blackwell) Parks '79 got a late start on her college journey, but her love of learning at Bradley continues to this day.



When I started at Bradley in 1977, I had been out of high school for several years and I was married with two children. I always knew I would finish college but not everyone else in my life felt as confident as I did about that! I was referred to as “an older returning student.” Such a lovely title!

I can remember coming for registration the first time. Class offerings that were full were

projected on a wall in Neumiller Chapel, so it was not an easy, seamless process by any means. That is when I met my advisor for the first time, Dr. Fred Fry in the College of Business (I was majoring in business specifically to work for a not-for-profit organization). Registration was a frustrating experience and while, at the time, I didn't think he was much help, Dr. Fry became one of my favorite professors and remains a friend today.

I wasn't involved in student organizations to any significant extent, because whenever I was on campus, we were paying a babysitter to be at home with the kids. I occasionally brought the kids to class, and while most professors were understanding, not all of them were! There were two other “older returning students” in the College of Business at the time—Marge King (now Semmens) and Jana Minor. The three of us stuck together and had a lot of fun.

We were all transfer students and we had to petition the university to receive honors at graduation because we didn't have enough credit hours at Bradley the semester before graduation. We had to get signed statements from our professors as to what grades we were anticipated to get in the final semester before they would let us wear the summa cum laude cords at commencement.

Professors that had a significant impact on me were Dr. Kal Goldberg (who later served on my Board at the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce when I was the President of the Chamber) and Dr. Dick Hartmann. They were both supportive of us “older students,” and Kal let me bring my kids to class.

I live in Peoria and I'm still learning at Bradley through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). I'm at Bradley regularly, keeping up with campus news and engaging in fun, informative sessions. My thanks to the people at the University who decided it was a good idea for Continuing Education to apply to the Osher Institute. **B**



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