

BRADLEY

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025





As I begin this exciting chapter as Bradley University's 13th president—now more than 100 days in—I do so with deep gratitude and an even deeper sense of purpose. As a proud member of the Class of 1979, returning to serve the university that shaped so much of who I am is both a personal honor and a profound responsibility.

From its founding, Lydia Moss Bradley gave us more than an institution—she gave us a vision. A vision rooted in innovation, opportunity, and the transformative power of education. It's that legacy we continue to build upon today, together.

I believe strongly in the power of connection—with our students, our community, and especially with you, our alumni. Your passion and commitment are not just part of our story, they help write its future. Whether you're mentoring a student, attending campus events, or supporting scholarships and programs, your engagement fuels the momentum we need to keep pushing forward.

That momentum was clearly on display this past year. I'm proud to share that Bradley closed the fiscal year with a record-breaking \$20.5 million in total philanthropy—the highest in our history outside of a campaign year. This remarkable milestone was made possible by 3,415 donors, including 187 faculty and staff, as well as 87 new major gifts and over \$1 million raised during our Day of Giving.

Thank you for your continued support. Your generosity is shaping the future of Bradley.

As we look ahead, I invite you to stay connected, stay curious, and stay invested in the future of Bradley University. Together, we will continue to champion a culture of learning, innovation, and impact for this generation and the next.

With appreciation,

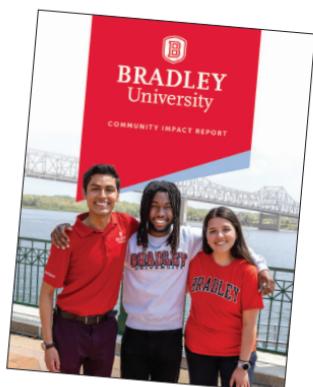
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Shadid".

James E. Shadid '79
President, Bradley University



Community Impact Report

In June, Bradley published its first-ever Community Impact Report highlighting the notable achievements students, faculty, staff and alumni have accomplished with organizations in the Peoria area. "Bradley's commitment to public service, innovation, and collaboration is evident in every corner of our community," President James Shadid said. The report is available at bradley.edu/communityimpact.



The College Tour on Amazon Prime

The Bradley campus is seeing the spotlight, along with nine students and one alumnus. *The College Tour*, an Amazon Prime production, brought their crew and cameras to BU. While they were here, they captured the personal involvement and cross-discipline collaboration Bradley is known for, along with some of the big moments you know and love, like the Lighting of the B! It's the perfect program for the entire Bradley family (including future students). You can watch the whole thing on Amazon Prime or at bradley.edu/CollegeTour.

Tune in to Our New Podcast!

Recorded in Hilltop Studio, the *Bradley University Podcast* shares the stories, people, and experiences that make Bradley exceptional. Hosted by Dr. Angie Cooksy, Vice President of Enrollment Management, Marketing, and Communications, and Ben Jedd, Assistant Vice President of Marketing and Communications, episodes offer candid discussions, insider insights, and inspiring stories that bring Bradley's vibrant community to life. Listen to The Bradley University Podcast on Apple, Spotify, or at Bradley.edu/Podcast.



MORE BRADLEY NEWS IN THE MAIL!

Alumni will now receive three publications a year. Two newsletters like this one, and a full magazine each fall.

Capstone Convergence Showcase



Business and engineering students teamed up to solve complex problems for real companies. On April 25, they showed off what they built at the Convergence Showcase and Capstone Open House.

Charley Steiner Symposium



This year's Charley Steiner Symposium covered sports betting and the effect artificial intelligence (AI) is having on sports. Pictured here in the "Steiner School Success Stories" panel from left to right are: Pablo Iglesias, Miguel Aguei, and Kathleen McPartland.

FUSE Symposium



The 12th Annual FUSE Symposium was held at the Peoria Riverfront Museum on April 26, featuring 21 teams who put together projects ranging from board and video games to user experience designs, animations, and more.

Big Idea



Students dared to dream big and compete for cash to start their own businesses in the Big Idea competition. This year, The Hunter System, from Nabil Tagba and Hardik Singavi, received the \$4,000 top prize. The project is an interactive game that uses augmented reality technology.



MAKE A GIFT TODAY!

bradley.edu/giving



President Shadid Celebrates 100 Days of Progress and Promise

On April 8, hundreds of Bradley University faculty, staff, students, alumni and distinguished members of the Peoria community gathered at Renaissance Coliseum to welcome James Shadid as Bradley's 13th President.

Shadid spoke candidly and optimistically about his vision for Bradley. "I look forward to working with the board of trustees and all of you, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community in building upon this legacy and promoting a culture of innovation and learning. Because of you, Bradley University's future is bright."

He recently celebrated his 100th day as president on July 9, and recapped some of the highlights including securing \$2 million in state funding to enhance our campus and make critical capital improvements and \$1 million in federal support to expand Bradley's STEM offerings in the Business and Engineering Convergence Center. You can see his full statement at bradley.edu/100Days.



Peoria Riverfront Museum

Every Bradley University student, faculty, and staff member now receives a free annual membership to the Peoria Riverfront Museum, thanks in large part to the vision of museum president and CEO John Morris, who recognized the value of this historic partnership. Through the museum's collaborations with institutions like the Smithsonian, MoMA, and the American Museum of Natural History, Bradley students gain front-row access to world-class culture.



Day of Giving Tops \$1 Million

Bradley University's 10th Day of Giving was one for the record books. It was full of energy, generosity, and that unmistakable Braves' spirit. In just 24 hours, alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends came together to raise more than \$1 million to support programs and initiatives across campus.

Leading the way was the Bradley Fund, with 523 gifts fueling flexible support where it's needed most. Alumni made up the largest group of donors (616 strong!), followed by friends, faculty, staff and trustees. Each gift is a clear sign of confidence in Bradley's mission and future.

On campus, the celebration matched the generosity.

Students, staff, and faculty gathered on Olin Quad for games and a hot dog

cookout, complete with President James Shadid himself manning the grill.

"The energy on campus was great," said Shelly Smith, senior director of the Bradley Fund. "It was a little chilly, but that didn't stop a line of students from showing up to personally sign thank-you cards for our donors."

That spirit of gratitude echoes back to Lydia Moss Bradley herself, whose philanthropic vision made this university possible. Today, that same spirit lives on.

To all who gave, thank you. You're helping fuel the future for Bradley students. And if you haven't made a gift yet, there's never been a better time to join the momentum.

Let's keep it going, together.
bradley.edu/makeagift

VOICES & VISIONARIES FINDING TITANIC

with
Dr. Robert
Ballard

the oceanographer
who discovered
the wreck of the
RMS Titanic

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25 | 6:30 P.M.
BRADLEY'S RENAISSANCE COLISEUM

FREE EVENT - REGISTRATION REQUIRED



SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER

Presented by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in conjunction with the Peoria Riverfront Museum's world premiere of *Finding Titanic: The Secret Mission*, presented by CEFCU.

1960s

Fred '64 and Liz Schwartz '64 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Nov. 28, 2024.

1980s

Michael Rabbitt '86 was elected Democratic Committeeperson of Chicago's 45th Ward.



Class of '87 girls' trip to Paris. From left: **Mary Khoury Harvey, Chris Anderson Spiewak, Jackie Sawiris, Wendy Swartz Kotsakis.**

1990s

Shawn Goetz '94, vice president at Hanson Professional Services, celebrated 30 years of service at Hanson's Mound, Minn. office.



While attending Arch Madness, **Craig Smith '95** ran into **David Thirdkill '83**, who played in the NBA for five seasons. Smith admitted to being starstruck.

2000s

Ted Berger '03 was named the Director for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker.

Joe Fiore '04 was named CEO of Republic Hospitality in Charleston, S.C.

Nick Sleiman '06, MS '07 was appointed vice president of Distribution, Middle East and Eurasia at Caterpillar.

Greg Kottwitz '08, a charge nurse at Christian Northwest Hospital in St. Louis, was named the Team Member of the Month in December 2024.

The work of **Jerry Bedor Phillips, MFA '10** was included in two group exhibitions at Zeitgeist Gallery in Nashville. His "Transparent Barriers" light sculptures were included in "Rise Above," a group exhibition featuring the work of 14 Nashville-based artists.

Marcus Belin '10, EdD '14 was named 2025 Illinois High School Principal of the Year for the Kishwaukee region. He is principal at Huntley High School, in Huntley, Ill.

Erik Zdansky '12, grants and quality assurance manager at Lifelong Access in Normal, Ill., secured more than \$21 million from the Illinois Healthcare and Family Services Department in conjunction with the Illinois Capital Development Board to develop a youth-focused social service hub for multiple agencies in Bloomington, Ill.

Robert Lugiai '12 and his slate of Democratic trustees won seats on the Elk Grove Township Board for the first time since townships in Cook County, Illinois were established in the mid-1800s.

Rob Harris '18, a civil engineer at Hanson Professional Services in Peoria, earned his professional engineer license in Illinois.

Audrey Hawkins '20 a roadway engineer at Hanson Professional Services in Chicago, earned her professional engineer license in Illinois.

Dr. Rick Smith EdD '22 has been appointed president of the North Lake Campus at Dallas College.

Mohammed Hussien MS '23 joined Hanson Professional Services Peoria office as a roadway designer.



Katie Nolan '07 and Ryan Janeski,
Aug. 10, 2024.



Adrianna (Arvia) '18 and Chad McCarty '17,
Owen McCarty, Sept. 26, 2024



Kelsey McGuire '13 and Chris Thor-Larsen '13,
Sept. 14, 2024



Diana Burban '03 and Adam Rauen,
Tess Edythe, Nov. 4 2024.



Alexandra Kavalauskas '18 and Jacob
DeFrance '17, Oct. 12, 2024



Ryan '16 and Meghan Dubs '16,
Mackenzie Anne Dubs, Dec. 10, 2024.



Stephen and Victoria Mimbs '15,
Elowyn Mimbs, May 13, 2024



Becca '17 and Peyton McDermott '16,
Aidan McDermott, Dec. 18, 2024.



Andrew '16 and Emilee Hall '16,
Amelia Mae Hall, Sept. 17, 2024.



KNOW A BRADLEY LEGACY?

Is there a future Brave in your family? Apply today for a \$1,500 Bradley Legacy Scholarship!



[LEARN MORE.](#)

Bring your family back to campus and get a personalized experience.



[VISIT TODAY!](#)

We want to hear from you!
Send us your feedback and news.

magazine@bradley.edu
(309) 677-2242

Bradley Magazine
Bradley University
1501 W. Bradley Ave.
Peoria, IL 61625

Save the Date

Mark your calendars now, and bring your Bradley spirit to campus in October!

Founder's Day – Friday, Oct. 3

Join us to honor Lydia Moss Bradley at our annual Founder's Day Convocation, as we recognize Bradley's dedicated faculty and staff, and celebrate the achievements of notable alumni.

Homecoming – Saturday, Oct. 18

Get ready for a day packed with pride! Enjoy the Red & White Scrimmage featuring both men's and women's basketball, college open houses, Athletics Hall of Fame inductions, and so much more.

25th and 50th Reunions

We're welcoming the classes of 1975 and 2000 as they celebrate their milestone reunions at this year's Homecoming!

[To see all upcoming alumni events:](#)



**Bradley University
Alumni Association (BUAA):**

Phone: (309) 677-2240
Email: bualum@bradley.edu
Website: bradley.edu/alumni

Social Media:

- BradleyAlumni
- BradleyUniversityAlum
- BradleyUniversityAlumniAssociation

Make a Gift:

bradley.edu/giving



[Sign up for
Alumni News](#)

1940s

Phyllis J. Vega '45, 5/30/25

Mary J. Simonsen '48, 3/8/25

Kenneth C. Coats '49, 5/9/25

Bob Greeley '49, 1/24/25

Robert L. Scherer '49, 12/22/24

1950s

Robert N. Allton '50, 2/8/25

Melvyn L. Bass '50, 5/4/25

Marjorie A. Dubois '50, 5/30/25

Margaret L. Carter '50, 2/12/25

Emerson W. Ebert '50, 12/1/24

Harold E. King '50, 2/11/25

C H. Mueller '50, 10/17/24

Yvonne E. Reynolds '50, 10/21/24

Richard Frystak '51, 1/3/25

Nelda M. Keene '51, GRD '70, 4/13/25

William J. Vlastnik '51, MBA '52, 11/3/24

Carole M. Winkler '51, 2/1/25

Dolores J. Benjamin '52, 3/15/25

Arthur J. Trillet '52, 2/24/25

Ardith E. Wessler '52, 12/17/24

Donald R. Harbers '53, 4/23/25

Ralph H. Mueller '54, 11/9/24

Alorie J. Rotondo '54, 4/11/25

William Sonnemaker '54, 12/28/24

Albert J. Speck '54, 3/16/25

Charles J. Sueppel '54, 10/19/24

James R. Clarke '55, 10/2/24

Lloyd E. Nevin '55, 4/4/25

Harold L. Pickinpaugh '55, 4/18/25

Keith M. Scholfield '56, 11/4/24

Shirley J. Boudreau '57, 11/15/24

David A. Bullock '57, 1/7/25

Shirley T. Burnett '57, 10/31/24

James H. Jacobsen '57, 4/9/25

Jack I. Marcussen '57, 4/4/25

Michael B. Unruh '57, 5/3/25

William L. Winterbauer '57, 4/8/25

Don E. Hardin '58, 4/6/25

Jerry R. Kogucki '58, 2/14/25

Roger J. Modder '58, 1/23/25

Dean H. Skinner '58, 10/18/24

David A. Armitage '59, 1/23/25

Gene E. Cole '59, 11/4/24

Merwyn E. Dan '59, 10/3/24

Jack I. Marcussen '59, 4/4/25

Robert D. Mummert '59, 5/16/25

James W. Hauter '59, 1/20/25

1960s

Carl P. Adams '60, 5/29/25

Jack A. Bloomfield '60, 1/12/25

Jack W. Carter '60, 1/5/25

Everett L. Charlier '60, 12/25/24

Arthur Jolie '60, 2/21/25

Walter Springer '60, 1/4/25

John G. Feyerer '61, 10/14/24

Arthur W. Meinzer '61, 4/20/25

Thomas J. Purple '61, GRD '63, 4/2/25

John S. Rader '61, 5/13/25

Carole F. Retacco '61, 12/6/24

Carole M. Winkler '61, 2/1/25

Jeanne H. Donahue '62, 5/1/25

Donald B. Fiddes '62, 10/8/24

Edmund A. Flexman '62, 1/7/25

George L. Lacanski '62, 5/3/25

Gerald Markowitz '62, 2/12/25

Maurine D. Patten '62, 12/9/24

Carol A. Reams '62, 3/18/25

Janet M. Schuman '62, 9/12/24

Zita Stanley '63, 2/4/25

Susan K. Sulaski '63, 2/8/25

William J. Wilkinson '63, MBA '64, 11/4/24

Rita D. Leake '64, 12/21/24

Carolyn A. McGee '64, 11/13/24

Gordon F. Ross '64, 12/11/24

Janet G. Sennott '64, 4/6/25

Thomas C. Storm '64, 2/14/25

Michael T. Cook '65, 11/26/24

Pamela J. Curtis '65, 11/20/24

Rick Dechow '65, 10/15/24

Allan D. Fink '65, 12/26/24

Harold W. Fuson '65, 5/13/25

Tom D. Kilton '65, 3/17/25

Thomas J. Penn '65, 10/22/24

Robert H. Simak '65, 2/5/25

Judy G. Haag '66, 3/17/25

Hal R. Kirk '66, 5/9/25

James E. Lightfoot '66, 2/7/25

Charles E. Relitz '66, 11/5/24

Raymond E. Rogers '66, 11/1/24

Leonard P. Burgard '67, 4/22/25

Kenna L. Diaz '67, 4/2/25

Vernon E. Petersen '67,
12/10/24

Rudolph G. Wilmer '67,
10/18/24

Jimmie D. Boatright '68,
MS '71, 3/7/25

Richard J. Defoe '68,
11/8/24

Douglas O. Ivers '68, 1/9/25

Vonna L. Larson '68,
5/6/25

Rosalind Y. Lowry '68,
3/5/25

Babette K. Schoenfeld '68,
5/21/25

Karen B. Springer '68,
10/23/24

Gerald Stuart '68, 3/27/25

Aaron Bliss '69, 3/8/25

Kendall K. Krapf '69,
5/6/25

Gerald L. Larson '69, 1/7/25

Lynette M. Levanich '69,
1/19/25

1970s

Alexine G. Cincere '70,
1/8/25

James F. Cunningham '70,
10/2/24

Mary Dries '70, 11/26/24

Dewey C. Fitch '70, 11/9/24

Thomas M. Grisham '70,
10/10/24

Donald R. Holton '70,
3/17/25

Donald R. Jackson '70,
11/20/24

Ted Madden '70, 11/7/24

Bengt H. Mattson '70,
12/17/24

Judith A. Mueller '70,
11/21/24

Terry A. Pickett '70, 1/21/25

Robert E. Schmidt '70,
3/10/25

Philip J. Teeter '70, 5/5/25

Edward H. Venter '70,
5/6/25

William P. Whiteside '70,
12/13/24

Darhal J. Wolf '70, MS '73,
1/8/25

Robert T. Heyer '71, 12/3/24

Sally A. Hutchcroft '71,
12/13/24

Edward S. Powell '71,
12/27/24

Robert M. Randolph '71,
12/10/24

Robert J. Shade '71, 11/5/24

Willie R. Taylor '72,
12/15/24

Garland Criswell '72,
11/9/24

Karen E. Dobson '72,
1/18/25

Robert C. Dunn '72, 4/13/25

Lynn A. Hiett '72, 3/4/25

Frederick S. Hoffman '72,
5/4/25

Douglas O. Ivers '72, 1/9/25

Shelby J. Stilley '72, 2/14/25

Ann E. Boyd '73, MA '77,
11/21/24

Joseph E. Fyrer '73, 2/7/25

William M. McCowan '73,
3/18/25

Gloria L. McNett '73,
11/8/24

Ned H. Meier '73, 4/2/25

Bonnie J. Tollefson '73,
5/2/25

Steven P. Burgess '74,
2/23/25

Mark Haake '74, 3/24/25

Duane E. Wegerer '74,
12/19/24

Kent A. West '74, 1/1/25

Maryrose S. Armato '75,
12/1/24

Robert C. Schierer '75,
11/23/24

Robin D. Gibbons '76,
1/4/25

Lynn A. Hiett '76, 3/4/25

Robert M. Shurilla '78,
5/2/25

Gary R. Krusenoski '79,
2/17/25

1980s

Donald E. Haar '80, 10/7/24

Delores M. Kirkwood '80,
10/18/24

Richard N. Friedman '83,
3/19/25

Mary L. Tomlinson '83,
11/11/24

Leo E. Burke '85, 12/19/24

Eric C. Trusner '89,
2/28/25

R J. Wilcoxen '89, 5/26/25

1990s

Henry Rakoff '93, 5/2/25

Shawn P. Kirwan '94,
5/25/25

Valerie G. Vancil '94,
10/3/24

Caryl C. Johnston '95,
1/2/25

Daniel B. Tuhy '95, 1/1/25

Debra L. Kelone '98,
12/1/24

Thomas O. McCoy '99,
11/22/24

Mark J. Plebanek '99,
12/9/24

2000s

Mark A. Robison '01,
5/25/25

Cody R. Kother '05, 4/12/25

2010s

Kathy M. Grabel '03,
3/24/25

Natalya I. Malakhova '08,
GRD '11, 3/3/25

Kerry E. Setter '11, 12/3/24

Jamie L. Dowell '13,
12/28/24

Jonathan G. Gattone '14,
12/2/24

2020s

Patrick R. Garlow '21,
4/24/25

Faculty & Staff

Dr. Stephen Heinemann,
1/10/25, Professor of Music
from 1991 - 2018

Dr. Margaret "Peggy"
Carter, 2/12/25, Associate
Professor of English from
1963 - 1999

Sharon St. Germain,
1/29/25, Director of
the Springer Center for
Excellence in Internships
from 1983 - 2012

Dr. Philip Horvath,
11/15/24, Assistant
Professor, Department
of Business Management
and Administration from
1977 - 2024

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Peoria, IL 61625



Lighting of the B & Fireworks
Basketball Scrimmage
Campus Open House & Tours
Volleyball Match
Tailgating
Men's Soccer Match
Class Reunions: 1975 & 2000



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