Call me Gary
President’s Welcome

What a whirlwind these first months of 2016 have been! Donna and I, along with our four fur children, Scamp, Sophie, Izzy and Teddy, have settled into our new home and are excited to be in Peoria. In making my way around campus and the community, I have been overwhelmed by the incredibly warm reception we have received from everyone we’ve met.

In addition, I’ve had the opportunity to meet with many alumni/ae, both here in Peoria and at events elsewhere, and I look forward to seeing many more of you soon. I’m struck by how similar our Bradley Experiences have been: close relationships with faculty and other mentors, opportunities for hands-on experiential learning and opportunities for involvement in activities that aren’t always available at larger institutions.

All these things provide not only excellent knowledge and training, but also the development of life skills so essential for a lifetime of success. In short, Bradley is a great place for young people to develop and mature, all while getting an outstanding education.

Coming back to campus has brought an avalanche of happy memories. I didn’t know anything about the university when I first arrived as a freshman exactly 50 years ago, but one of the first things I did was go visit George Armstrong, the debate coach, to tell him I was interested in joining the team. Although he had no idea whether I’d be an asset, George added me to the roster. His instant acceptance was an important step in my life, and is typical of the support Bradley faculty routinely show their students. Even today, when technology is ubiquitous, Bradley students develop close relationships with their professors and their fellow students, just as I did so many years ago.

I owe a lot of my success to people like George, as well as my many other mentors like the legendary Kal Goldberg, whose Econ 101 class forever changed the way I think about the world and my fellow humans. I will always be grateful for the time and attention they gave me, and I’m sure many of you feel similarly about your Bradley professors.

I hope all of you will stay engaged with this amazing place and that you’ll find ways to give back, whether it’s in the form of recommending Bradley to a prospective student, helping a Bradley student or graduate find a job, coming back to campus to revisit happy times or making a gift.

Higher education faces many challenges today, especially for midsized institutions like Bradley. But by keeping your connection to this great university strong and by working together, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

It’s good to be back on the Hilltop.

Keeping connections strong

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It’s good to be back on the Hilltop.
Guilt, narcissism, prayer and posture
Religion and psychology meet to research the nuances of supplication.

Playing his way off
Baseball helped Elvis Dominguez cope with the Castro regime during his early years in Cuba and led to a fulfilling career as the university’s head baseball coach.

Call me Gary
Bradley’s new president believes everyone at the university has a job to do and that they’re all important.

Gifts of attention
At school or on the job, mentors encourage, inspire and teach the intangibles.

Dedicated study
Graduate school may take a lot of time, dedication and money, but it can bring big rewards as well.

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On the cover Bradley’s 11th president, by Duane Zehr. Check out the magazine’s web extras at bradley.edu/hilltopics.

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An energetic, sold-out crowd welcomed Macklemore & Ryan Lewis to the Renaissance Coliseum in early February ahead of the release of their new album. The duo has topped the Billboard charts, performed at the Grammy Awards and snagged Grammys for Best New Artist, Best Rap Album and Best Rap Performance. Watch a time-lapse video of the concert at bradley.edu/go/ht-Macklemore.

In January, 16 students and two faculty members embarked on the university’s first Alternative Winter Break service trip. The group spent a week in New Orleans working with the United Saints Recovery Project on various home restoration projects.

“Be happy today. Be proud today. You’re advancing a rich tradition of meaningful impact. Because today you are Bradley University graduates.”

— Chuck Stoner

professor of Management and Leadership, in his address to graduates at the December 2015 Commencement ceremony

More than 500 students, faculty and staff attended Bradley’s annual Fit Fair, which provides opportunities for and information about living a well-balanced, healthy lifestyle. In addition to raffles for prizes such as a FitBit and GPS watch, participants jumped at the chance to try out the giant bounce house, pictured at left.

325

Total pints the American Red Cross collected during a three-day “Challenge on 74” blood drive between Bradley and Illinois State University.

COMPiled BY S.L. Guthrie, Bob Grimson ’81, Mary Brolley, Naomi Tornow ’18. PHOTO CREDITS // Macklemore; Stoner; Fit Fair; nursing students: Duane Zehr; New Orleans: courtesy Jessica Chandler; Dewhurst: courtesy Belleville News-Democrat; Kimble: courtesy Adam Kimble ’09.
The percentage of nursing students who passed the National Council Licensure Examination in 2015. Bradley was one of just two Illinois baccalaureate nursing programs to achieve a perfect pass rate. The national pass rate is 83 percent.

"IF YOU’RE NOT GOING TO GET PAID, YOU SHOULD EAT WELL. I LOVE TO COOK. BESIDES, I HAVE NO INTEREST IN BEING IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA."

JESSICA LAMPE DEWHURST ’10 enjoys cooking for the cast and crew of the short film “Sarge.” She also serves as associate producer, photographer and social media maven. Check out her food blog at goldenbrownanddelicious.com.

Feb. 29: ADAM KIMBLE ’09 began his quest to break the world record for the fastest crossing of the U.S. on foot, which is currently 46 days, 8 hours and 36 minutes. The ultramarathoner is raising money and awareness for impossible2Possible, which uses adventure to encourage youth to reach beyond their perceived limits. Follow his progress at bradley.edu/go/ht-Kimble.

NEW ALUMNI FACULTY & STAFF

PAMELA KERSTEN DURR ’95, assistant professor of physical therapy in residence
KEVIN CAPIE ’96, temporary instructor of communication
KATY FERGUSON ’04, temporary instructor of communication
KATIE LUMBERRY SHADLEY MBA ’04, assistant director of the Executive Development Center
REBECCA COX PETRANY ’07, temporary instructor of communication
CARRIE BRANDT ’09, temporary instructor of theatre arts
KIRSTEN PALMER BOYER ’11 MSN ’14, assistant professor of nursing in residence
BECKY WOOD MBA ’14, temporary instructor of management and leadership
JAMES O’CONNOR MSME ’14, temporary instructor of mechanical engineering
PAM A. MILLER M.A. ’11, academic and student athlete services coordinator
ELLY PETERSON ’11, program coordinator in Continuing Education and Professional Development
JARED BOYER ’10 MBA ’13, assistant director of admissions
SPENCER KECK ’15, admissions representative
GREG COLWELL ’98, general manager of off-campus university properties
Online counseling degrees begin

Beginning in January, Bradley students seeking a master of arts in counseling had an online option. The 60-semester hour programs in clinical mental health counseling and professional school counseling are identical to those offered on campus and require two separate, one-week residencies at Bradley.

The programs prepare graduates for the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification, which is required in many states. Both online master's degrees are accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs and the Higher Learning Commission. In addition, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation has approved the professional school counseling program.

The new programs seek to serve students' diverse needs and locations, according to Carlos Del Rio, online counseling program director.

Graduates of the clinical counseling program can provide services to individuals, couples, families and groups in a variety of settings, such as hospitals, social service agencies and churches. Professional school counseling graduates are able to address students' academic, career and personal development.

— B.G.

Physical therapy awarded grant

The Community Foundation of Central Illinois awarded the Department of Physical Therapy a competitive $4,500 grant to purchase a MOTOmed movement trainer for its new Clinic for Fitness and Function.

“This is a specialized piece of equipment that allows cardiovascular and strength training for the arms and legs,” said Melissa Peterson ’95, associate professor and clinic director.

“It was designed for individuals with neurologic conditions.”

The free clinic, started in September 2015, serves people with conditions such as stroke, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries with individualized care beyond what is available through insurance. The collaborative effort enables students to assess patients and develop and implement treatment plans under faculty supervision.

— B.G.

BRADLEY NAMED MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL

Victory Media named Bradley University a 2016 Military Friendly School for its student veteran support services, including the recent formation of a Student Veterans of America chapter on campus.

A resource person in the Division of Student Affairs handles the concerns and issues of student veterans and those on active duty and connects them with available resources.

Greg Haines, assistant director of the Center for Orientation and Advisement, noted 38 veterans/active duty students are using military benefits on campus. Another 26 dependents are included. He estimated the actual number of student veterans at more than 50.

The annual list honors the top 15 percent of the more than 12,000 VA-approved schools nationwide and recognizes colleges, universities, and trade schools doing the most to foster student success for service members, veterans and their families.

— B.G.

ONLINE For more information on this and other online degrees, visit onlinedegrees.bradley.edu.
Sam Kintop ’15 (above) discovered a passion for others in the midst of poverty, wet cement, plastic bottles and garbage. The elementary education graduate spent a November week in remote Guatemalan villages building schools out of plastic bottles.

Kintop traveled with the nonprofit Hug It Forward, an organization that builds “bottle schools” in South and Central America. Instead of building with brick, these eco-friendly buildings use thousands of discarded plastic bottles stuffed with garbage. They provide insulation against weather extremes, as well as have the power to stop bullets.

“I had no idea how powerful the trip would be,” Kintop said. “It made me want to do more to give back. It humbled me and showed me what I took for granted in my life.”

Kintop and his team worked on two schools in small, remote villages where outsiders were rare sights and education was limited. Village children flocked to the Americans, with Kintop seemingly the most popular of the visitors, perhaps a credit to his education degree. His child-friendly demeanor and rudimentary Spanish knowledge bridged cultural and linguistic gaps.

And, as the Americans discovered, simple things like sports, hugs and tourist photographs unexpectedly created cross-cultural bonds.

“I realized that kids, no matter where they’re from, laugh and play in the same ways,” Kintop said. “It was special to connect with these kids on such a personal and natural level even though we just met and spoke different languages.”

Cultures also united over cell phone photos. The simple act of stopping to snap a picture, a common sight in the developed world, captured the children’s attention. Photos also brought Kintop together with a family whose two young daughters attached themselves to the Bradley alumnus. As the week progressed, the team realized village children never had seen photos of themselves.

To show appreciation for the Guatemalans’ hospitality, the workers found a store in a nearby city where they could print photos as parting gifts for the families.

“I’ve never seen such pure happiness in two kids over something as simple as a few pictures,” Kintop said. “Those children will cherish those photos and remember the first time they saw people from another country. That’s a unique experience that will change how they see the world, just like it changed the way our group saw the world.”

Kintop returned to the U.S. with a newfound appreciation for the abundance of American life and a desire to devote more of his life to helping others. As he settles into the professional world, life lessons from Guatemala will carry into his classrooms while he ponders future volunteer opportunities.

Future trips with Hug it Forward are on his calendar, plus he’s considering joining the Peace Corps.

“We’re empowering communities and youth by educating generations of kids,” Kintop said. “People always say they want to make a difference in the world, and this is a real chance to make a real difference.”

— Matt Hawkins
Sound legal advice

Before politicians, celebrities and sports figures sought out attorney Jeffrey Bogart ‘69, he was a student attracted to the Hilltop by the famous speech team, beautiful campus and “the legend, the religion, of great Bradley basketball.”

The Atlanta-based “super lawyer” regaled a packed student audience in January with tales of his college days and storied career, which included prosecuting mobster Carlo Gambino and defending Nixon aide John Ehrlichman.

Citing his involvement with the student senate and Readers Theatre, he said he honed many of his career skills at Bradley. “My living is talking about my client, presenting a set of facts.”

Bogart, who said that after 44 years, he “still has a passion for the law,” took questions after his speech from several students considering applying to law school.

“Fifty-one years ago, when I set foot on this campus, I was just like you,” he said. “Bradley was a place for me — as for others — to excel, to experiment. Push yourself to do things you don’t want to do. Test and challenge yourself; find a place for yourself.”

— M.B.

Science educators group recognizes Finson

Professor of Education and Center for STEM Education co-director Kevin Finson received the Outstanding Longtime Service Award from the Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE). The award recognizes service to the 800-member international association over a span of at least 15 years.

“It’s a deep honor,” said Finson, who has been a part of the organization for 31 years. “(As) an international group, there are a lot of people who qualify for that award. It is humbling to have that sort of recognition from your peers.”

Finson participated in presentations at numerous ASTE conferences and served as a member of the group’s national board of directors, on committees and in other positions at the international/national and regional levels.

“ASTE helped me find my place,” Finson said, noting his graduate adviser encouraged his involvement. “It’s geared toward the pragmatic, the practical. It’s a very nurturing group, very collegial.”

Finson also co-authored two books published in the past year — “Application of Visual Data in K–16 Science Classrooms” and “Going Back for our Future II: Carrying Forward the Spirit of Pioneers in Science Education.”

— B.G.
IMEC gains $25 million grant

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) visited campus in January to announce a $25 million federal grant to benefit the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC), headquartered at Jobst Hall. The center works with mostly small and midsize manufacturers to create and retain jobs, reduce costs, streamline operations and improve sustainability.

“We live in a globally competitive world,” said Durbin, the second-ranking Democrat in the Senate. “Manufacturers must be ready to take on the jobs of the future.”

With funding from other sources, including university partners and the state, a total of $57 million will aid manufacturers. Illinois ranks third among states in manufacturing output and fifth in manufacturing employment, according to IMEC President David Boulay.

“The words ‘Made in Illinois’ can’t be a thing of the past. They’ll be a part of the future.”

— U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin

Daring PR campaign a winner

A team of three public relations students won the Fall 2015 Ebeling PR-ize for their campaign, “Shape Your City,” to increase awareness of high rates of sexually transmitted infections in Peoria’s African-American community.

When Brandon Johnson ’16 (left), Caleb Aeschliman ’16 (middle), and Rasheed Habler ’16 (right) learned the rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea in some Peoria zipcodes were more than 10 times higher than national rates, they knew they had to act. Forming the AuderePR agency, the group’s main tactic was an event where people could receive free HIV/STD testing and a free haircut. The students had help from the AIDS service organization Central Illinois FRIENDS, as well as a local barbershop and other groups.

“Initially, we were only focused on winning,” said Habler, adding the group utilized various media and attended town hall meetings to spread its message. “After talking to (the attendees), we realized the issue was much bigger … (Audere) means ‘to dare, to venture.’ We were daring, and we were definitely venturous dealing with this topic.”

— B.G.
**Guilt, narcissism, prayer and posture**

The intersection between the sacred and the secular is fertile terrain for faculty and student researchers.

**GUILT AND PRAYER**

Robert Fuller, Caterpillar professor of philosophy and religious studies, wondered if guilt would induce people to pray, but needed help to test his theory. After the idea arose in a classroom discussion, he teamed with Associate Professor of Psychology Anthony Hermann, along with then-students Austin Simpson '13 and Mark Lehtman '14.

“All religion is connected to emotion, but it makes a difference if that emotion is something like fear or greed,” said Fuller. “It’s common sense that if you make people feel guilty, they will become more religious, but no one had ever proven it. I couldn’t do this on my own.”

Hermann agreed that the project required a blend of academic disciplines, and the two relied on student contributions at every stage. The team published their results in a paper for the September 2015 issue of the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion.

“Religion is under-studied in psychology,” he said. “It was a nice fit.”

Using two sets of Bradley introductory psychology students, one group wrote about a recent event that had induced guilt. The other wrote about a neutral experience. After writing, the groups took an interest survey that reflected various activities, including prayer.

Fuller said the surveys showed that people feeling guilt were more interested in praying, but only if they didn’t rate highly on the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI), which Hermann said is a reputable tool for measuring an individual’s narcissistic tendencies. Students also took the NPI as part of the research.

Simpson and Lehtman helped with a follow-up study by the faculty on the same topic, this time published in a recent issue of Current Psychology. It used subjects recruited through the internet and...
tried to move people from reflecting on a guilt episode in the past to a more real-time experience. Subjects imagined a scenario in which they violated the confidence of a friend who had stolen money at their own workplace by making their secret public, a scenario also designed to elicit feelings of guilt. Interest surveys then noted changes in their level of prayer interest.

“The effect of guilt in this one was dramatically different,” said Hermann. He added people were less interested in praying when the guilt was more immediate — but that narcissistic people felt no affects at all.

With plans to conduct future research projects together on narcissism and guilt, both agreed student input and help are essential.

“It’s common sense that if you make people feel guilty, they will become more religious, but no one had ever proven it.”

— Fuller

“As we try to figure out connections between our disciplines, the students are the bridge,” said Hermann.

PENITENT POSES

For another project, Professor of Psychology Derek Montgomery teamed with Fuller to target the effect of body posture on religious feelings. The study divided 127 undergraduate students into roughly equal groups.

One group was placed in upright, expansive “power poses” while the other assumed more vulnerable, contracted positions, such as kneeling or bowing. Fuller noted such positions are found in most world religions, including the daily prostrate prayers required by Islam and the placement of pews lower than the altar and pulpit in Christian churches.

Using a questionnaire to measure religious attitudes, they published their results in the Archive for the Psychology of Religion.

Participants filled out the questionnaire while they were in their assigned position. The results showed those in lower, contracted positions reported a greater reliance on God and agreement with conventional religious beliefs than those in the more elevated postures.

Montgomery has an interest in cognition, and he noted that other research studies indicate our bodily movements and gestures can impact how we think. He said that because there was little prior research on bodily influences in the area of religious studies, it added a little bit of uncertainty to what they expected.

“The body might play an interesting role in religious thinking,” said Montgomery. “This is a really new area, and we hope other researchers look into it.”

“We can’t say if it was the body posture or the cultural association of that posture,” added Fuller.

Utilizing students and recent grads once again, the researchers had help from Elizabeth Lundholm ’16, Ryan Potempa ’15 and Lehman.

A follow-up study is in the works for Fuller and Montgomery. The professors tout the advantages of collaboration and said the traditional view of separate, cloistered disciplines is outmoded.

“Everybody talks about interdisciplinary studies … We’re doing it,” said Fuller. “This was a fun project.”

“It’s much more productive to converge and look at problems from different perspectives,” added Montgomery.
Recent Books by Bradley Faculty

**AIN’THOLOGY**
Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Everyone has an opinion on ain’t, a word found in all dialects of English. This volume, edited by Seth Katz, associate professor and associate chair of the Department of English, with Patricia Donaher, is the first book-length collection dedicated to the understanding and appreciation of the word and its history. The often-taboo word is analyzed in language and grammar, in speech, the media and in usage by English speakers and writers from many regions, social groups and ethnicities. Most entries are aimed at a broad audience, and even the more technical contributions have helpful explanations and footnotes to make them more understandable.

**TABLETOP GAME DESIGN FOR VIDEO GAME DESIGNERS**
Focal Press

This book by Ethan Ham, associate professor and chair of the Department of Interactive Media, takes readers through the process of designing tabletop games and developing necessary skills for video game design. With 11 years of experience as a game designer, programmer and producer, Ham presents the information in a sequential manner going beyond simple definitions and descriptions to detail the issues and problems designers experience. Playable games demonstrating particular topics are included and can be analyzed and modified. Exercises, learning objectives and sidebars provide further examples, and a companion website (funmines.com) offers additional resources and links.

**A TEMPERED AND HUMANE ECONOMY: MARKETS, FAMILIES AND BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS**
Lexington Books

Economics professor Jannett Highfill, along with Patricia Podd Webber, explains and analyzes how institutional beliefs and interpersonal networks are crucial for economists fashioning micro- and macro-economic policies and theories for impersonal markets. Using everyday examples, this volume shows that the knowledge and beliefs formed by family units help temper or strengthen a traditional market economy. The authors discuss wealth and poverty and offer insights into how a humane economy could meet the needs of all people.

**THE ART AND SCIENCE OF ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION, 2ND EDITION**
National Social Science Press

D. Antonio Cantú, professor and chair of teacher education, and Professor of Teacher Education Sherrie Pardieck examine teaching elementary school social studies — such as civics/government, economics, history and geography — while integrating primary and secondary source documents with technology. The authors give special attention to aligning the social studies curriculum with standards, including the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards, which links to Common Core state standards. They also blend theory, research and practice in this volume, which includes print and digital resources, to make social studies relevant to students in a multicultural world.

— B.G.
Pille honored by basketball association

Bob Pille ‘50, a member of the Bradley Athletics Hall of Fame, by inducting him posthumously into its hall of fame during a ceremony at the 2016 NCAA Men’s Final Four in Houston.

As a Bradley student, Pille began working at the Peoria Journal Star. He would eventually move on to the Chicago Sun-Times, Cincinnati Post and Detroit Free Press during his 38-year sportswriting career. After his death in 2006, Pille’s widow donated his collected books and articles to the university, where they reside in the Sports Communication Resource Center of the Steiner School of Sports Communication. — B.G.

Four named to Athletics Hall of Fame

Four athletes joined the 2016 induction class for the Bradley Athletics Hall of Fame; the ceremonies took place in February.

Phillip Gilbert ’04, the ninth-leading scorer in men’s basketball history, played professionally overseas and is now the boys basketball coach at East St. Louis High School (Ill.). He led the Missouri Valley Conference in scoring as a junior and is one of 10 three-time All-MVC selections in Bradley men’s basketball history.

Julie Jehle Barnett ’96 is one of three Bradley softball players to be a three-time All-MVC selection. She was an Academic All-American and is the only three-time softball MVC Scholar-Athlete in university history. She maintains a place in the Bradley record books, ranking second in slugging and third in on-base percentage.

Hamid Mehreiouskouie ’02 was a soccer All-American, a two-time All-Midwest Region and selected All-MVC twice. He helped Bradley to its first two NCAA soccer tournament appearances and was a two-time MVC Scholar-Athlete. Drafted in the fourth round of the 2003 Major League Soccer SuperDraft, he is the soccer coach at his alma mater, Schaumburg High School (Ill.).

Jenna Passman Regan ’03 won the Orsborn Award in 2004 and is one of six players in volleyball team history named a first-team All-MVC selection twice. She is one of three Bradley volleyball players to be a three-time choice as a first-team MVC Scholar-Athlete and still holds season records for block assists and total blocks, along with career marks for attack percentage and blocks per match. Her husband, former soccer star Tim Regan ’04, joined Bradley’s Hall of Fame in 2014.

BRADLEY CELEBRATED 40 YEARS of inter-collegiate women’s athletics in January with “For the Love of the Game” at the Renaissance Coliseum. Current and former athletes, coaches, administrators and supporters gathered for the event, which included a panel discussion (above, l-r) featuring assistant professor Dunja Antunovic, tennis player Sheila Consaul ’80, and track stars Charlene Dewey ’85 and Mary Ellen Hill Schupbach ’00.

Bradley honored Mira Panajotovic Vukelich ’54, (left) for representing the university in tennis competitions before there were organized women’s sports on campus.

— B.G.
When Elvis Dominguez was just 3 years old, Fidel Castro’s government sent his father to a work camp simply for wanting to leave the country. For five years, the child would see his father once a month, if he was lucky.

The family endured numerous searches of their home by government officials prowling for forbidden items. All the while, Dominguez, his mother and younger brother prayed that their loved one would not join the ranks of the 400,000 who died from disease or starvation in the camps.

Baseball became a release. His grandfather took him to games as a way to escape the rigors of life in the Communist country; Dominguez played in as many pickup games as he could.

At last, in May 1971, both parents and children were able to leave the island with the goal of a better life. A fresh ham and cheese sandwich on the plane to Miami would be Dominguez’s first taste of freedom.

“Everything was rationed,” said Bradley’s head baseball coach. “Even toys were rationed. Over there, you were told what to do, how to live, regardless of age. You came here and you didn’t have that fear.”

Arriving in the U.S. with just the clothes they wore, the family lived with his mother’s uncle, who sponsored their immigration. Eight people lived in the house with Spanish as the primary language. He learned English through television and music, as well as by listening and reading.

“There was no ESL (English as a Second Language) class,” Dominguez said, adding he still thinks in Spanish. “It’s like a switch flips when it comes out in English.”

His parents worked multiple low-wage jobs, passing up offers for government assistance. While they found their American dream by starting successful companies, the long hours meant Dominguez and his younger siblings essentially raised themselves in the close-knit Cuban neighborhoods.

“We looked out for one another. We were all searching for the same thing — opportunity. The Cubans are proud people. You give us a chance, and we’ll make it work. Tell me I can’t do something. Give me a challenge.”

Dominguez attended Creighton University on a baseball scholarship and was a four-year starter at shortstop before graduating in 1986. He knew he wanted to remain in sports after graduation, but initially didn’t see himself as a coach. After some encouragement from his own coaches, Dominguez reconsidered and landed his first collegiate head coaching position at Eastern Kentucky University in 2001.
With a degree in secondary education, Dominguez considers himself a teacher first, coach second. He proudly shows thank-you notes from former players. Displayed in his office are family pictures and baseball mementos, but also pictures of former teams and players, some of whom went on to play in the majors.

“Getting things like this, it makes a difference to you. It’s not about the games. It’s about the bus rides. You take these young men at an influential time in their lives and try to get them to look ahead. You want them later on to be better husbands, better fathers.”

His 2015 team had a historic season — the school’s first NCAA postseason appearance since 1968 and first postseason victory in 59 years. Dominguez added Bradley has had a player in the major leagues 30 of the last 31 years.

Dominguez’s first Bradley recruit, Mike Tauchman ’13, led the nation in hitting as a senior. The pair stay in touch, with Tauchman working out on campus during the offseason.

“He genuinely cares about his guys,” said Tauchman, who plays in the Colorado Rockies organization. “He had a good balance as a coach. He was calm when he needed to be. But when we needed it, his Cuban side would come out.”

“American is I Can,” Dominguez said. “I can make a difference.”
Call me Gary

Bradley’s 11th president may have the top spot, but he doesn’t see his role as more important than anyone else’s.

BY S.L. GUTHRIE
Photography by Duane Zehr

Roberts gets to know the members of his executive team at the first meeting of the newly named Administrative Council.
Gary Roberts ’70 doesn’t believe in hierarchy. It’s not that he doesn’t understand there are social boundaries, but he wants the Bradley community to know that everyone has a job to do, and all of them are important.

“I really am an egalitarian at heart who thinks everybody has value, everybody should be treated with respect, and everybody should be on a first-name basis,” said Roberts. “That’s the way I approach dealing with people.”

During an interview in his office, his sartorial sense matched his demeanor; the dress was casual — khakis and a simple button-down shirt — and the look is often the uniform of the day. The style choice says a lot about who Roberts is, as does his self-effacing and more often, self-deprecating demeanor.

He never expected to become Bradley University’s 11th president. “It was not a job I (sought); even when I applied I didn’t think I had much of a shot at it. Must have been a thin pool out there is all I can say.”

It’s still too early to narrow down the details, but some of Roberts’ goals for his first year (“Survival; not getting fired,” he joked) include strengthening the university’s finances and increasing enrollment.

Improving the campus is also on Roberts’ mind. “Right now, some of our physical facilities are simply not sufficient,” he said. “If a young, very talented person coming out of high school comes to campus and sees some of our facilities, we’ve got an extra mountain to climb to persuade them to come here. So we need to upgrade places like the library and some of the student housing. And it is absolutely critical that we get the Convergence Center (which will house the engineering and business colleges) built ASAP to replace Jobst and Baker halls.”

Along with capital projects, Roberts hopes to encourage innovation in program development, as well as explore new instructional delivery methods. Another priority is hiring a provost, which he called a critical component of moving forward.

To strengthen ties between the university and the city of Peoria, Roberts plans to build personal relationships with the city’s leaders. He’s already met with several key players and said he’ll work with them to further the bond between town and gown.

“We have a lot of really smart, talented people at Bradley, and the more we can get them involved, we can help make (Peoria) a better community, which helps Bradley be a stronger place, too.”

Growing up in Rochester, Minn., Roberts’ roots were modest. His parents were the epitome of the American Dream and instilled the value of hard work in their only child. Roberts’ father attended business college and served as a station agent for Mid-Continent Airways, later acquired by Braniff Airways, becoming a travel agent when the airline pulled out in the early 1980s after deregulation hit the airline industry.

With only a high school diploma, his mother was a cashier at the local public utility, but ran the whole department by the time she retired nearly 40 years later.

“My parents were absolutely devoted to me,” said Roberts. “There are a lot of people out there who have worked just as hard as I have who haven’t had the opportunities I’ve had, which was largely because of my parents’ encouragement and the time they spent with me.”

Since the Mayo Clinic is the city’s largest employer, many of his high school classmates were doctors’
DONNA CARR ROBERTS comes to the university with a résumé as impressive as her husband’s. A former corporate executive for Estée Lauder, she’s also a commercial real estate developer and award-winning portrait artist.

“Having Donna with me is sometimes a little embarrassing, because as you will quickly find out, she’s smarter than I am, she’s more accomplished than I am, more charming than I am, more personable than I am,” said Roberts during his announcement as president. “She’s certainly better looking than I am. You may be wondering why am I standing up here and not her, and I don’t really have a good answer for that.”

In a recent interview, Bradley’s first lady returned the favor, citing her husband’s intelligence, work ethic and passion for the university, his ability to bring people together to find solutions and his skills in fundraising, a key component of any collegiate presidency.

“He understands how a university works; he understands when you’ve got good faculty, you don’t get in the way, you let them do their job,” she said. “He’s got a focus on what needs to be done to make Bradley stronger (with) more to offer.”

Carr Roberts said she plans to assist her husband in whatever way she can. She will continue with her real estate business and painting, all while seeking ways to support Bradley and Peoria, because the two share such close ties.

It may surprise some to learn the couple met online via eHarmony in 2009 and married in 2013. Both gave points to the dating website for weeding out the people with whom a match would never work.

“So no biker girls with tattoos?” teased Carr Roberts. “Well, no, it wasn’t that,” he replied. “If you remember, the photo you posted, you were sitting on a motorcycle. I just assumed you had the tattoos.”

Roberts acknowledged how uncanny their similarities were. “We have patience with the same things, but impatience with the same things,” he said. “We both get frustrated in traffic, but we both don’t mind each other’s little irritating habits.”

The pair share a lifelong love of animals, especially dogs. Currently, there are four canine children in the household — Scamp, 10, a Cairn Terrier/Corgi mix; Cairn Terriers Sophie, 8, and Izzy, 8 and Teddy, 4, a rescue dog believed to be a combination of Shih tzu and Maltese.

“One of the first things I said to him was you have to love dogs, and he goes way beyond me,” said Carr Roberts. “There’s just something about dogs — and I love cats, too — they’re so helpless, and they’re so dependent on human beings for their welfare ... They’re always glad to see you, they never ask for money or to borrow the car.”

“Just food,” added Roberts.

“And squeakies, and love,” she said. “They’re just endless, endless love. They bring so much joy.”

View Donna Carr Roberts’ artwork at carrart.com
kids, making Roberts a bit of an anomaly. That didn’t stop him from setting his sights on prestigious Stanford University (Calif.). Roberts wasn’t willing to consider any place else until a school counselor convinced him he needed a backup school, so he applied to Bradley based on the recommendation from a cousin who lived in Peoria.

Good thing, too. It turns out, Stanford had a quota system, only accepting a certain number of students from any given high school. Roberts had the grades, but so did many of his classmates; he didn’t get in to his dream school. Instead, he came to Bradley sight unseen, and excelled. He joined the debate team, was a charter member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and was active in student government, serving as president of his sophomore class, student body treasurer during his junior year and as a member of the student supreme court his senior year.

Debate coach George Armstrong and economics professor Kal Goldberg were two important influencers during his undergraduate years. Although they had different personalities, their commonality was the care and compassion they showed their students.

“I had not seen people like that until I got here. Kal, especially, caused me to think about the world in ways I never had before, and it’s really sort of shaped the way I’ve thought about things ever since.”

Hard work led to Roberts being a member of the five-time undefeated championship team on the nationally televised GE College Bowl in 1969. Roberts, along with Ed Wehrli ’71, Paul Remack ’71 and Dr. Gene Sidler ’71 spent weeks practicing with Frank Bussone ’64 M.A. ’66 as coach in a mock studio with bright lights and buzzers. The realistic setting paid off when final competitor Johns Hopkins University (Md.) seemed to freeze in the studio.

Graduating magna cum laude with a degree in economics, at last Roberts entered Stanford’s law school after a two-year stint teaching and coaching debate at Limestone (Ill.) Community High School. Finishing in the top 10 percent of the class — an accomplishment he largely attributes to the terrific educational grounding he received at Bradley — he came to realize that for his undergraduate education Bradley had been a much better place for him than Stanford’s highly competitive arena.

“It was a much more intense environment, and I was just a naive kid from a small town in Minnesota,” said Roberts. “(Bradley) was a much better place for me. I was able to thrive, and I owe a lot of whatever has happened since to the successes I was able to have here.”

Next stop: clerking for Judge Ben Duniway of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco for a year before going into private practice at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C. Roberts’ client roster included...
the National Football League, and his time in the nation’s capital was the start of Roberts becoming an internationally recognized expert in sports law. A frequent commentator on sports-related legal and business issues, he was the on-air legal analyst for the NFL Network and a lead analyst for other national media outlets during the NFL lockout in 2011.

In 1983, Roberts turned his attention to academe when he joined the law school faculty at Tulane University in New Orleans. For the next 24 years, he would have roles of increasing responsibility — eventually becoming deputy dean and founding the first sports law program in the U.S. — but Roberts’ leadership took the ultimate test in 2005 when he helped reclaim the school from the floodwaters unleashed by Hurricane Katrina.

Then-Tulane President Scott Cowan set up shop in Houston where he, Roberts and other senior administrators worked 16-hour days putting the university back together. The plan was to reopen in January 2006, which gave Roberts just four months to create two new sets of class schedules to accommodate the nearly 700 students who were able to transfer to other law schools quickly without transcripts or test scores. He needed an additional schedule for the first-years who had sat the semester out, as well as classes available out of sequence for the upperclass students.

The key was to make sure they all came back.

“We had to persuade all the other law schools who had taken our students in for the fall not to allow our students to stay, because the students had relocated and wanted to finish out their academic year where they were,” said Roberts. “We understood that, but if they (didn’t return), we’d have been out of business.”

Thankfully, only a couple of schools didn’t agree to the plan. The disaster — and watching Cowan handle it — taught Roberts not to assume anything when it comes to dealing with problems, and the importance of taking charge and making decisions.

“Sometimes you don’t know whether the decisions you’re making are the right ones, but you still have to make them,” he said. “You can’t sit around and twiddle your thumbs. Sometimes you have to do things that people just assume you can’t do, but in extraordinary times, you have to do extraordinary things... You learn you have to use your judgment. Sometimes the rules don’t give you the blueprint you need.”

Two years later, the Midwest beckoned, and Roberts joined Indiana University’s Robert H. McKinney School of Law where, as dean, he secured the $24 million gift that led to the school’s renaming. Roberts also added 15 faculty members and doubled the student financial aid budget.

Roberts’ affection for Bradley led him to apply for the presidency, though he admitted he needed convincing. He called the homecoming a great way to cap his career, but reiterated his belief that he wasn’t any more capable of handling the challenges the university faces than anyone else who might have taken the post.

“I just have the theory that things happen and are as much good luck as good management,” said Roberts. “It’s exciting and humbling to be in the position. I don’t think I’m particularly special. When I said, ‘Call me Gary,’ I think that reflects my belief that all of us have a job to do, and all of our jobs are important.

“It’s true that some of our jobs will impact more people than others, but if anybody doesn’t do their job right, it adversely affects the school, and if everybody does their job right, we all succeed and move forward.”

This impressive quilt represents the nearly 500 schools that took in Tulane students when Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath devastated the New Orleans campus in 2005. The circle shows Bradley on the middle right.
Funny, outgoing and thoughtful — and clearly in his element engaging with students and parents at the university’s Visit Days — Tom Richmond ’88 M.A. ’94 didn’t set out to work in college admissions.

A public relations major, he hoped to get a job in an advertising, public relations or marketing department. He’d thrived in internships at Bradley and at Dow Chemical. But his internship coordinator at Dow took Richmond aside at the end of his stint and said that while he’d done great work, she didn’t think the corporate culture suited him.

“She said she thought I’d do well in the nonprofit realm,” he said. “That surprised me.”

As graduation neared, Bradley’s communications department chair Joe Misiewicz encouraged him to apply for an entry-level opening in the Office of Admissions, but Richmond was reluctant.

“I wasn’t sure I wanted to be an admissions counselor. But (Misiewicz) said I should do the interview just for the practice. Later, he told me he thought I’d fall in love with the position once I explored it.”

Richmond received a job offer in 1988, and today serves as the executive director of enrollment management marketing for Admissions. Nearly a quarter-century later, ensconced in a career he loves, Richmond will be forever grateful to Misiewicz, who left Bradley for a post at Ball State University (Ind.).

“He saw something in me I didn’t see,” he said. “He left a mark on who I am.”

The Bradley culture, Richmond believes, lends itself to mentoring. A connection nurtured through several classes and many long talks meant that Misiewicz knew Richmond’s strengths. “(He) had no doubt I would thrive in this job I couldn’t visualize myself doing yet,” he said.

And, like many Bradley alumni blessed with strong mentors, Richmond makes sure to become a resource for interns in his office.

“I explain how what I’ve asked them to do fits into our goals. Simple tasks have meaning. I want them to see the assignment in context, so they’ll understand how it will help our work.”

Gifts of attention

Each had at least one powerful mentor. Now they make a practice of taking students, interns or new colleagues under their wing.

BY MARY BROLLEY
Photography by Duane Zehr
“I WOULDN’T BE WHERE I AM TODAY WITHOUT THOSE WHO MENTORED ME ... THEY ALL CARED ABOUT ME AS A PERSON FIRST.”

— Norris Chase, executive director of diversity and inclusion, with students (from left) Imani Brown ’16 and Abigail Canchola ’17
TEACHING ‘EXTRA ROLE BEHAVIORS’

Workplace expert Jennifer Robin’s research centers on how businesses can become more successful by focusing on their employees and meeting their needs. The associate dean for graduate and executive programs said corporate mentorship programs help businesses by empowering mentors to teach the intangible skills employees need to learn.

“They call them ‘extra role behaviors.’ Things like the company’s social connections and social organization. Where to go to solve a problem. How to get along — and ahead — in the company’s culture,” she said. “Things that aren’t in the job description, but are essential to success.”

It’s clear why a mentoring relationship would be helpful to the mentee, but why do people choose to be mentors? “It goes to the fundamental human desire to be helpful. Even veteran employees who don’t have any direct reports feel they can assist new employees.”

As for instructors, Robin noted that the kind of professors attracted to the Bradley culture love to teach and work closely with students.

It’s a desire Robin feels every time she teaches a class. “I signal to (students) that I’m open to helping them, beyond what we’ll cover in class,” she said. “I tell them I’d be happy to look at their résumés. I mention that I’m also a consultant, and would be happy to discuss that field with anyone interested.”

There have always been informal mentoring relationships at work and elsewhere, Robin said. Historically, they grew out of personal affinity.

Although those relationships were effective, they weren’t inclusive.

“Because people tend to gravitate to those like them, women and minorities were often left out,” she said. “And that became a problem, because employees with mentors reaped benefits others did not,” she said.

So, many businesses have instituted formal mentoring programs. “The thinking is, let’s give all new employees opportunities to connect with more experienced ones. But it gets tricky. The best mentoring relationships succeed because the participants have an affinity for each other.”

She cites companies like Caterpillar Inc. that seek to level the playing field by encouraging internal employee affinity groups, each with an executive sponsor, for underrepresented populations.

Robin said it’s important for companies to have a good idea of what they want to accomplish with these programs. “Is it simply to promote a sense of belonging, or to move more women and minorities into leadership roles? Mentoring should be the vehicle, not the goal.”

What has she gained from mentoring students? “You don’t know the impact of your connection with students until they tell you, ‘You shaped the way I think.’ It’s humbling and rewarding hearing of the success my students have had.”

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

As executive director of diversity and inclusion within the Division of Student Affairs, Norris Chase has had strong mentors throughout his life.
“I wouldn’t be where I am today without those who mentored me — in relationships, school, religious and professional settings,” he said. “They all cared about me as a person first.”

After graduating from Oakland University, Chase earned an M.A. at Clemson University. At both institutions he met administrators and staff members who helped and encouraged him.

“They’re all professional men and women who’ve encouraged and inspired me to consider a career in higher education. They’ve challenged me to grow and become a positive influence to others.”

At Bradley, his charge is to help retain students from underrepresented populations. To that end, he and his staff have instituted a peer-mentoring program, now in its third year. He said 90 percent of the students in that first cohort are still at Bradley.

“Our office has two main goals,” said Chase. “First, to promote the success of underrepresented students. And second, to build leaders ready to go out into the world to make dynamic change. We want to make sure these students aren’t lost in the mix. That they’re not only supported, but knowledgeable about all the resources available.”

Assuring students that supportive peers, faculty and staff surround them helps unlock their potential, Chase added. “When community is present, a lot of other things become possible.”

A stroll through Jobst Hall this year flooded Ed Hartman ’69 with memories of an influential professor during his time as an electrical engineering student.

“I had transferred from a junior college as a sophomore, and was a bit overwhelmed with my introduction to electrical engineering class at Bradley,” he said. “(Richard) Gonzalez, my counselor and the teacher of the class, was understanding and low key. He said it wasn’t unusual for students to feel that way when they first got into their major (and) advised me to stay the course.”

Although Gonzalez soon left Bradley for another teaching post, Hartman remains grateful for his warmth and reassurance. “(He) helped me succeed at Bradley and go on to a 40-year career at Caterpillar.”

By any measure, she’s a super mentor. Since 2005, Laura Herlovich ’79 has welcomed about 60 Bradley students for weeklong internships at PR Plus, her Las Vegas public relations firm.

While Herlovich offers help with career prep, she noticed students don’t brag enough about themselves or their experience. “I understand why — they don’t want to overstep boundaries,” said Herlovich. “But I try to infuse them with confidence.”

She worked as a sports information assistant at Bradley; her first job was as a public relations assistant for the NBA’s Utah Jazz. She cited mentors such as then-basketball coach Joe Stowell ’50 M.A. ’56 and then-sports information director Joe Dalfonso ’76 for their support.

“Nobody ever told me I couldn’t be successful in sports journalism. They saw my passion for sports. They saw potential in me.”
Graduate school has helped Jessica Bingham MFA '16 — shown here in her campus studio — grow as an artist and a teacher.
Dedicated Study

Graduate school takes a big commitment in time and resources. Read why these Bradley students, staff and alumni think it’s worth the cost and effort.

Just a few years after starting his job as a plant manager at family owned Excalibur Seasonings in 1996, ambition led Gulf War veteran Tom Hornstein EMBA ‘03 to pursue graduate school. He began with Bradley’s (then-named) Executive Certificate of Management program and, almost immediately afterward, joined the first cohort of the Theresa S. Falcon Executive MBA.

Hornstein believed combining the leadership skills he learned in nearly 10 years of Marine Corps service with those found in the civilian world would be just what he’d need to grow his career. Given that the program cost more than $50,000 at the time, it was definitely a leap of faith.

Today, Hornstein is Excalibur’s CEO, an uncommon achievement for a non-family member. He credited the strategic plan his group created for the multimillion dollar company based in Pekin, Ill., as part of their studies as a key element in his — and Excalibur’s — success.

When his professor, internationally recognized strategic planning expert Larry Weinzimmer ‘83 MBA ‘85, told Hornstein he would charge a company between $30,000 and $40,000 for something similar, Hornstein knew he’d made the right choice.

“I thought, ‘I’m already going to recoup the majority of the cost of this program just by developing an awesome strategic plan for (my) company since we didn’t have one,”’ said Hornstein. “... Initially, I went to (Excalibur’s) board to ask for the time off to do the EMBA, but I was financing it. Before I was halfway through the program, the board came to me and said, ‘We want to finance (the remainder) and reimburse you for what you’ve already spent.’ That’s the value they saw.”

DEEPENING A SKILL SET

Like Hornstein, Kaci Green Hampton ‘12 M.A. ‘15 believed graduate study would help her advance by filling in her knowledge of nonprofit management, her chosen career. Hampton, who then worked for the Illinois CancerCare Foundation, looked nationwide for programs offering leadership training for administrative positions in human service and community agencies.

Coincidentally, her alma mater offered the perfect graduate program, as well as generous tuition help. She entered the program, which requires 36 semester hours and a field experience, in 2014.

Nonprofit managers often wear many hats, making the program’s multidisciplinary approach helpful, said Hampton. Two classes were particularly
noteworthy, including Supervision and Engagement, which explores human resources policies and tactics.

“It helped me better understand what it means to be an HR professional — and that anyone in a leadership or managerial position needs to have a basic understanding of HR policies,” she said.

The other, a financial class taught by Rick Zehr, president of OSF’s Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, “made (her) think more critically about how nonprofits need to do their finances.”

Hampton did required fieldwork at the Heart of Illinois United Way. Now a consulting volunteer while she seeks full-time employment, Hampton works on special projects such as helping coordinate the young professionals group and doing research. Plunging into the program’s coursework and her United Way internship solidified her desire to work in the nonprofit sector.

“I want to learn every aspect of running one,” said Hampton.

his sister-in-law, Love Uchenna Ugorji MSIE ’15, when they were undergrads at Federal University of Technology Owerri in Imo State, Nigeria. Although he was successful working in sales back home, Ugorji wanted to do something more fulfilling; he also needed to be pragmatic.

“Going for a master’s degree is not something you do subconsciously,” said Ugorji, who began the Bradley program in spring 2014. “You need to have clear goals. You have to come from a professional standpoint and ask, ‘How do I want to increase my value in the marketplace?’”

Ugorji has already put his studies to good use, landing a position as a project/site manager trainee with Supply Chain Services International (SCSI), which provides logistical, quality and other solutions for original equipment manufacturers. The job has forced him to delay graduation in order to finish his research project.

“If you have to deal with just coursework without the interference of a regular job, you should do very well by God’s grace,” said Ugorji. “Also, Bradley professors do a very good job at explaining (the material) and breaking up the work load and exams into small sized portions.

“Working, that’s where the challenge comes. At some point in my master’s program, I worked two jobs, and still had to help at home …. (The) best way I found to manage my time was to cut down on procrastination and deal with matters as they come.”

RE-ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

Kristin Gatliff DPT ’18, a student in Bradley’s doctoral program in physical therapy, decided to research head trauma after one of her sons had a serious concussion playing football two years ago.

“I saw how much it impacted him,” said Gatliff. “I noticed he wasn’t the same person right away. It’s good for parents to know what the symptoms are since the coaches might not (notice) when they have 100 boys playing football.”

A single mother of six, whose children range in age from 7 to 20, she earned a business degree from Indiana University Bloomington in the mid-1990s. After spending nearly two decades at home, Gatliff decided it was time for a change.

Making the transition from mom to student hasn’t been easy, however. Gatliff said she waits until her younger children are in bed before tackling her own studies. Her two teenage daughters help with babysitting and making dinner. Gatliff added the
students in her cohort are also supportive of one another.

The biggest surprise, she said, has been the increase in workload compared to her undergrad days, especially with exams. “You can’t just memorize things. You have to understand the material and be able to apply it.”

Gatliff hopes the degree will get her a position as a physical therapist, since she doesn’t believe she has the same options in the business world after so long a gap.

“I would have had to go back to school after not being in the workforce in order to get a good job. Since (that was the case), I thought I might as well study something that interested me.”

GAINING CRITICAL FEEDBACK

As a junior at Monmouth College (Ill.), Jessica Bingham MFA ‘16 wanted to learn more about Bradley’s MFA program in art. She met Professor of Ceramics Randy Carlson while attending an open house for the graduate school and later connected with Paul Krainak, the art department chair. After both encounters, she realized she had more to do before pursuing graduate studies.

“I needed to settle down in the studio and work, so after graduation, I did a yearlong fellowship in the art department at Monmouth,” she said.

Bingham kept in touch with Carlson and Krainak. “They showed such an interest in me. When I applied, they offered me a full-tuition scholarship and an assistantship,” she said, citing her jobs in the gallery and the classroom.

In her spare time, Bingham and her husband Zach Ott, along with fellow grad student Alex Martin ‘15, a printmaker, co-founded Project 1612.

“We did a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds to revamp my garage into an art space. It’s an alternate exhibition space for very short-term residencies. So far, we have had 14 artists show in the space.”

Her favorite part of her master’s program? “It’s very independent. I am constantly developing in my studio practice,” she said. “The faculty has encouraged my artistic growth.”

For Charlotte Cherne M.A. ‘16, graduate study offered time and space to write. She’s also learning a crucial lesson for any writer: how to give — and take — constructive criticism.

After earning a bachelor’s in English from the University of California, Riverside, it was Bradley’s intimate atmosphere that led her to the university to pursue her master’s degree.

“Professors know my name,” she said. “We have small discussion groups, and conversation flows.
And this semester, I’m a teaching assistant in a poetry class.”

Assistant Professor of English Devin Murphy’s creative fiction workshop was particularly helpful for Cherne, who will go on for her MFA next fall. “I was a bit nervous at first, but the environment and class were so welcoming. I’ve grown as a writer and become more comfortable sharing my work with others.”

Although her ideal career would be to write full time, Cherne is open to other options, including teaching, after completing her studies. “Unlike medical school, dentistry or nursing, a graduate degree in English is not a set path,” she said. “But I know there’ll be a job out there — even one I can’t predict right now — that I’ll stumble upon and love.”

**ENROLLMENT ON THE RISE**

Earning a bachelor’s degree used to be enough to make you successful in the marketplace, but today, many people turn to graduate programs to help achieve their employment goals. The Council of Graduate Schools reported in 2014, first-time graduate enrollment was up 3.5 percent from the year before, the biggest annual increase since 2009.

Bradley is no exception to this trend. Jeffrey Bakken, Bradley’s associate provost for research and dean of the graduate school, said that in 2012, there were 578 students enrolled in the university’s graduate programs, leading to questions about its sustainability. But as of spring 2016, there were 905 students enrolled (161 of them in online programs), a 57 percent increase in four years.

International recruitment is a large part of this turnaround. Bakken has traveled to India three times, as well as to Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and China. Future plans include Kuwait, Jordan, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. It’s a grueling schedule, with no time to sightsee, but the trips have helped increase Bradley’s name recognition and provided benefits back home. “Meeting the students makes it all worthwhile,” he said. “Having them here also helps diversify our campus.”

Master’s or doctoral program classes can be more demanding than at the undergraduate level. Bakken noted there are different expectations of excellence, primarily a higher order of thinking. “You need to apply yourself,” he said, adding another benefit is the stronger relationships graduate students have with their professors due to an increased focus on a single area of study and their involvement in similar research. “There’s a vibrant discourse, analysis and differing perspectives that create a prime learning culture.”
CONCERNS ABOUT COST
Paying for graduate school, however, takes careful planning and sacrifice. According to Peterson’s, whose annual education guide is a bible for many prospective students and their families, annual graduate tuition at public colleges and universities totals nearly $30,000 and at private schools, it jumps to nearly $40,000. Along with books and supplies, there may be housing costs to consider, as well as any general living costs.

How can students reduce the sticker shock? Going to school on weekends and keeping a regular income can help, as can employee tuition reimbursement programs. There may also be opportunities for scholarships or teaching assistantships, as well as federal loans with reduced interest rates.

Students should be careful about how much of a financial burden they’re willing to take on, especially when combined with any lingering undergraduate loans. In 2014, U.S. News reported the combined undergraduate and graduate debt was $57,600 for a student in 2012. Will it turn into a bigger paycheck? The answer depends on the chosen program.

“The general conclusion about graduate degrees is that they do improve earnings,” said Anthony Carnevale, director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce to The Washington Post’s Jonnelle Marte in a December 2014 article. “There’s almost no doubt about that. (But) that doesn’t mean there aren’t some turkeys in the mix.”

Degrees in the sciences, such as engineering, are more likely to lead to a big raise than someone pursuing a doctorate in the humanities. Students should look at their field’s job market to determine if the high price tag is likely to deliver.

While a graduate degree is no guarantee of financial success, these Bradley experts agree there are many additional benefits that make it worth all the time, effort and resources. Hornstein doesn’t believe he’d be the CEO of a multimillion dollar company without it, and he encourages other senior executives to do the same.

“I tell them if you want to set yourself apart, you need to get your graduate degree,” said Hornstein. “I think it lowers the field of competitors, especially if you take (what you’ve learned) and apply it to your job. It also shows your commitment both internally to the employees and externally to the customer base.”

MAKING THE DECISION

GRADUATE SCHOOL IS A BIG STEP, so before you apply, here are some questions you should ask:

What do I want to study? What do I want to write about? What kind of research project would I like to do?

Graduate programs are more intense than undergraduate study. Be sure the subject is one that will keep you interested long term.

Am I ready?

You’re ready for a new challenge or you’ve hit a career plateau. You don’t have the responsibilities of raising children yet or you want the degree while you’re still able to make the best use of it. Whatever the reasons, when you attend graduate school, what you study is just as important as where you study, so be sure you’re ready to make the commitment.

What kind of learning environment do I want?

Do you want to be in a classroom on campus where you can have a lot of social interaction, or do you prefer to work from home online? Big school or small school? Make sure it’s the right fit for you and your life.

Where does grad school fit in with my current and future career goals?

Are you looking to move up? Make a career change? Stand out in a sea of candidates? Graduate school is not the place to “find yourself,” so be sure you know exactly what you want from it beforehand.

How will grad school impact my family?

Spouses, significant others and children will all feel the effects of your decision. Be sure to discuss your plans with them and how you will manage the anticipated and unexpected changes.

How much time can I give to being in class and to my studies?

Are you already working a lot of extra hours? Have children in day care? Other family responsibilities? It’s important to know what you can and can’t accomplish so you can do well in your classes without burning yourself out.

How long will it take to finish?

If a student typically finishes a program in 18 months, will you be able to do the same, or will you have to take longer and possibly incur more cost?

How will I pay for my studies?

Does your employer offer tuition assistance? Are there fellowships, scholarships or other financial aid available for your particular program? If not, you’ll need to determine how much financial burden you’re willing to bear and how long it will take to repay any loans you’ll need.

Will the benefits outweigh the cost of attending?

The average total cost of graduate school can run more than $30,000 for tuition, books and fees. Will you be able to recoup that money in increased salary without neglecting another important area, such as saving for retirement?
Senior project becomes children’s book

With a passion for art, a love of writing and a vivid imagination, Nicole Blackburn ’08 has merged her talents into a beautifully illustrated children’s book with an important message.

Set in medieval times, “Gypsy Giver and the Thief” tells the tale of a gypsy dancer who uses the coins she earns to buy food for the poor and teaches a lesson to a young thief.

“The moral is you don’t have to be a taker; life is more fulfilling if you are generous,” said Blackburn.

While growing up, she combined a love of children’s books with an active imagination to build stories of her own. Blackburn daydreamed of emulating author-illustrators like Maurice Sendak (“Where the Wild Things Are”) and Chris Van Allsburg (“Jumanji”), who inspired her.

“I love the mix of text and images and how stories stay with you and teach you things you didn’t know you (needed) to be taught.”

As she pursued a design degree at Bradley, Blackburn used her free time to study the structure of writing novels and particularly enjoyed exploring characters in stories. When it was time to choose her senior projects, she knew one of them had to be a children’s book. Blackburn had an idea for a young reader’s novel and pared it down for the book.

The manuscript still needed polishing before publication, so she shelved it for awhile. Blackburn never forgot it, though, and eventually asked a copywriter friend to take a red pen to it. She then began the self-publishing process.

Currently a graphic designer at Dick Blick Art Materials in Galesburg, Ill., Blackburn enjoyed sharing the book with students at her childhood alma mater, St. Mary’s Catholic Grade School in the Peoria County community of Kickapoo, Ill.

“The children loved it, which was validating,” she said. “One girl’s parent, who bought the book, asked when I would be doing more.”

“Gypsy Giver and the Thief” is available on Blackburn’s blog, OccasionallyHungryArtist. squarespace.com. Print and eBook copies also are available at Blurb.com and iTunes.

— Nancy Ridgeway, illustrations by Nicole Blackburn ’08
1950s

Emil Syngel ’53
established the Emil
and Avril Syngel
Endowed Award
for Hellenic Study at
Bradley. A former Bradley
baseball player who later
played professionally,
Emil retired from the
Union League Club
of Chicago. He lives
in Hilton Head, S.C.

1960s

Robert J. Coons ’66
released his second
Blaine Sterling mystery
novel, “Three Bridges.”
After working as an
educator, he lives with
his wife, Diane, in Venice,
Fla., where he is active
with several nonprofit
groups.

1970s

Gary Bergman ’69
M.S. ’74 serves on the
board of the American
International Recruitment
Council in Bethesda,
Md. He is president of
College Study US Inc.
Gary worked at Bradley
for 17 years, 10 of which
as director of enrollment
management. He and
his wife, Lisa Smith
Bergman M.S. ’89,
live in Huntington, N.Y.

1980s

Mark Elslager ’82
retired as a lieutenant after 31
years with the McCook
(III.) Police Department.
He and his wife, Pamela,
live in Brookfield, Ill.

1990s

DISH Network
Corporation has named
Erik Carlson ’91 its
president and chief
operating officer. He
previously served as
executive vice president
of operations and has
been with the company
for 20 years.
Class Notes

Pieter Lesterhuis ’91 MSCE ’92 is a senior vice president and CFO at HW Lochner. Previously, he served as director at KPMG Corporate Finance LLC; Pieter has additional experience at Credit Suisse Investment Bank and Huron Consulting. Married to Catherine Farrell Lesterhuis ’91, the couple lives in Winnetka, Ill.

Interbusiness Issues magazine named Sue Yoder-Portscherler MBA ’91 one of the 2015 Women of Influence in greater Peoria. Currently serving as vice president of marketing at CEFCU and as chair of the Illinois Central College Board, she is active in several civic and service organizations.

Recovery Database Network (RDN) named Holly Hancock Balogh ’92 MBA ’94 its chief operating officer. Since joining the company in 2012, she has worked as a senior product manager, senior director of operations and vice president of operations.

James Vallort ’91 is vice president/chief of services for Environmental Systems Design, Inc. (ESD). He joined the company in 2006, serving as a group leader and senior vice president. James holds several industry certifications and is vice president of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

Interbusiness Issues magazine named Julie O’Neill Legacy MBA ’93 one of its 2015 Women of Influence in the Peoria area. A 26-year veteran of Caterpillar Inc., she is chief information officer and vice president of the company’s Global Information Systems Division.

Colleen Kearney Rohm ’93 joined John Jackson Neighborhood Real Estate in Kirkwood, Mo.

Kindyl Edgeton Etnyre ’96 became principal at Rockton Grade School (Ill.). A teacher and administrator for 20 years in the Rockton school district, she holds a master’s degree in education from Northern Illinois University.

Rebecca Slody Huller ’96 serves on the District 90 School Board in O’Fallon, Ill. A school psychologist, Rebecca earned a master’s degree from McKendree College and Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, and a specialist degree in school psychology from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

Dawn Hamelau ’98 is a special education teacher at Wadena-Deer Creek High School in Wadena, Minn.

The Marine Corps awarded Ronald Murphy ’98 the Commander’s Award for his dedication to helping the Toys for Tots program. He now volunteers with the Boys and Girls Club of America on youth literacy. A graduate of the SIU Dental School, he is principal dentist with Murphy Dentistry in Batavia, Ill.

Chad Stevens ’98 earned a Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter designation from The Institutes, a risk management and insurance industry educational group. He lives in Menominee, Mich., and is a licensed office manager for Porras Insurance.

Adam Molberger ’99 is a product manager at Chicago Faucets. He previously worked for Peerless AV, Pentasource and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

Colleen Kearney Rohm ’93 joined John Jackson Neighborhood Real Estate in Kirkwood, Mo.

2000s

Hite Art Institute at the University of Louisville exhibited the works of Joshua Watts ’00 at the Cressman Center for the Arts. It was his first U.S. exhibition since moving to Dubai in 2008, where he is assistant professor of printmaking at Zayed University. He holds a master of fine arts degree from the University of South Dakota and his work has been in more than 70 group and solo exhibitions worldwide.

Justin Arabadjief ’01 was selected for the Plainfield High School Athletic Hall of Fame in Plainfield, Ill. A four-year soccer player at Bradley, he was a two-time high school all-state selection.

The Peoria Art Guild displayed a collection of biographical drawings and paintings by Michael J. Adams ’02.

Tabitha Segal Reid ’02 MBA ’04 and her husband, Garrick Reid, welcomed their third child, Nora Abigail, Aug. 12. Tabitha is a technical claims specialist with Liberty Mutual Insurance. The family lives in Morton, Ill.

Baxter & Woodman Inc. named Kenneth A. Koch ’03 its energy management coordinator. A 12-year veteran with the company, he lives in DeKalb, Ill.
Homegrown rivalry

The fabled Bradley vs. Illinois State University rivalry runs deep for the Schwartz family.

**Eric Schwartz ’88** is one of three in the group who graduated from the university, along with his brother **Jonathan ’90** and sister-in-law **Susan Lang Schwartz ’89**, while his youngest brother, **Greg**, also attended Bradley. Schwartz’s wife, **Beth**, is one of three in the extended family from ISU.

“There’s constant joking in the household,” he said.

While many of his high school classmates headed for the University of Illinois, Schwartz liked the size and compact nature of the Hilltop, where he majored in finance before a career in financial services. The late Kal Goldberg, who served as distinguished professor of economics before becoming provost, was among his favorite teachers.

“It was a place that put me on my path today,” said Schwartz. “It taught me about real life, what goes on in the world. It helped me grow up.”

Greek life was another important part of his Bradley Experience. Schwartz joined Alpha Epsilon Pi, where he often connected with Vice President for Student Affairs Emeritus Alan Galsky.

“He stood out as someone I could turn to when needed,” said Schwartz.

**Rebecca Schwartz ’16**, a dual elementary and special education major, also saw Bradley’s advantages. She visited the Hilltop and ISU before choosing a college, and like her father, chose Greek life as a member of Kappa Delta.

“Bradley runs in the family,” she said. “I (believe) Bradley’s campus is very personal. The education program is so close; we all know each other.”

Schwartz’s younger daughter, **Sarah Schwartz ’20**, will continue the family’s Bradley tradition this fall.

“Everyone said that the college you choose should feel like home,” the prospective education major said. “Bradley feels like home to me every time I step on campus.”

With two daughters attending his alma mater, it’s no surprise that Eric Schwartz chose to join the Parents Association, where he is a member of the executive board.

“This is a way for me to give back,” he said. “It felt like the right thing to do.”

— B.G.
Lessons learned
spark generosity

“I was always working,” she said. Recalling her own struggle to pay for college, Neal issued a matching $10,000 challenge in 2014 to fellow members of the Bradley University Black Alumni Alliance (BUBAA). The challenge, which will provide student scholarships, was not only met, it was exceeded. In fact, longtime Chicago attorney and BUBAA member Anne Fredd ’64 issued her own challenge for the same amount.

“Let’s just keep this chain going,” said Neal. “Let it never end.”

After graduation, she accepted a job with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and worked her way up the ranks for 22 years, while also serving in the U.S. Army Reserve. Not content to let her education go idle, Neal returned to school this year, studying in the Defense Comptrollership Program at Syracuse University (N.Y.). Graduates of the 14-month program receive two degrees: an MBA and an executive master’s of public administration.

Neal credits her grandfather, who worked as a janitor at a gas station in Shreveport, La., before eventually owning several small businesses, for inspiring her to do more with her life.

“He was a listener, an observer,” she noted. “The best lessons I’ve learned have come from listening.”

— M.B.
Just after graduating from Bradley, **Daniel Reedy ’82** packed his truck to move to Florida. The construction management major from Palos Park, Ill., had fallen in love with the Sunshine State during a series of childhood vacations.

When Reedy told his family about the move, they weren’t surprised. “My dad said, ‘You’ve always had the sand in your shoes,’” Reedy recalled, laughing.

After working for others for 10 years, he founded Onshore Construction and Development Inc. in 1993 on Jupiter Island, a barrier island about 20 miles north of Palm Beach. Since then, Reedy has helped wealthy clients — including singers Celine Dion (whose home is pictured above) and Kid Rock, professional golfers Greg Norman and Luke Donald, and many others — build large custom estate homes in Palm Beach and Martin counties.

Bradley’s construction management curriculum furnished him with the technical, business and diplomatic skills a contractor uses daily, Reedy said. And in a business where reputation and honesty are paramount, Reedy believes hard work, frequent communication and a willingness to take responsibility have been keys to his success.

On the Hilltop, Reedy was a Theta Xi and played club hockey and intramural sports. He recalled **James Adrian ’74**, professor of civil engineering and author of 11 seminal textbooks on construction management. “Bradley offered lots of one-on-one attention from professors, Reedy said. “I have all of his books in my office.”

Reedy and his wife, Melissa, have two daughters. Heavily involved in the community, the family supports programs to help wounded veterans, children in foster care, and Habitat for Humanity.

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**Dan Reedy’s nephew MICHAEL NESCI ’95** followed his uncle to the Hilltop. A history major, Nesci was captain of the Braves soccer team in 1995 and is now vice president of the Eclipse Select Soccer Club in Oak Brook, Ill. “When I was a kid, we drove to Bradley to see one of my uncle’s hockey games,” Nesci said. “We also went to his graduation. As a result, when I was deciding on a college, Bradley seemed like a great choice.”

— M.B.
“Three Spheres of Self,” installed near the Riviera Theatre in Chicago’s Uptown neighborhood. She also created “Facing the Storm,” a sculpture honoring female activists in Macomb, Ill. An adjunct faculty member at Bradley, she has had sculptures displayed in Lincoln Park and Old Town in Chicago.

Mitchell ’05 and Kimberly Dunton Braam ’05 announce the birth of their daughter, Caroline Evelyn, June 7. Mitchell is a project manager for Leasing, and Kimberly is a senior communications specialist for Progress Rail Services. The family lives in Wheaton, Ill.

Beau Doty ’05 is dean of students and boys basketball head coach at Streator High School (Ill.), where he lives with his wife, Devin.

Ryan ’05 and Sara Rigdon Leopold ’05 announce the birth of their son, Owen Edward, July 10. Sara has a master’s degree in art education from Northern Illinois University. Ryan is a mechanical engineering manager for PTi. The family lives in Aurora, Ill.

Jillian Rigdon Henry ’06 has started a medical practice at Memorial Physician Services—Women’s Healthcare in Springfield, Ill. A graduate of Southern Illinois University’s School of Medicine, she completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis.

“Generations,” by Andy Head ’07. He earned a master’s degree in theater and acting from Michigan State University.

The Bexley Community Foundation In Ohio named Hallie Blazer Raskin ’06 executive director. She holds a master’s degree in nonprofit management from Spertus College. Previously, Hallie served as assistant director of development for the Jewish Council of Youth Services in Chicago.

Wil Lofgren ’07 won the championship at the Thomas E. Price Cincinnati Metropolitan Tennis Tournament. His father, Bill Lofgren ’71, a member of the Bradley Athletics Hall of Fame, won the tournament championship in 1983–84. Wil is an instructor at the Queen City Racquet and Fitness Club.

Emily Heise ’09 competed in her second Quad City Times Bix 7 Race, beating her time from the previous year by 10 minutes. Diagnosed with cystic fibrosis after graduating from Bradley, she also ran a half-marathon earlier in the year. Emily lives in Moline, Ill.

Joe Chianakas MLS ’08 published his first novel, “Rabbit in Red.” He is a communications professor at Illinois Central College and lives in Peoria.

Denver Doherty ’08 is an assistant project manager at Walsh Construction, where one of his latest projects involved a section of Chicago’s Riverwalk, a continuous walkway and recreational destination connecting the Lake Michigan lakewfront and the city’s downtown area.

Monica Belling ’08 and Michael Elias married Sept. 25. Monica works in global brand marketing for My Little Pony at Hasbro Toys. They live in Cranston, R.I.

Pamela Wavering and Michael Elias married Sept. 25. Monica works in global brand marketing for My Little Pony at Hasbro Toys. They live in Cranston, R.I.

David Lesgold ’07 owns and operates Salumi Couture, which offers artisan, handmade sausage in Columbus, Ohio.

Rebecca Reznick ’08 ’11 and Justin Boumstein ’11 DPT ’15 married May 24. Rebecca is an RN at Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and Justin is a physical therapist and entrepreneur with Athletico Physical Therapy and NorthShore Athletics Inc. The couple lives in Arlington Heights, Ill.

Joe Chianakas MLS ’08 published his first novel, “Rabbit in Red.” He is a communications professor at Illinois Central College and lives in Peoria.

Michael Driscoll M.A. ’09 released the book, “Demons, Deliverance, and Discernment: Separating Fact from Fiction About The Spirit World.” A Catholic priest and licensed clinical professional counselor, he is chaplain and director of pastoral care at OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa, Ill. Previously, he was a chaplain at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. He holds a doctorate from Regent University.

Emily Heise ’09 competed in her second Quad City Times Bix 7 Race, beating her time from the previous year by 10 minutes. Diagnosed with cystic fibrosis after graduating from Bradley, she also ran a half-marathon earlier in the year. Emily lives in Moline, Ill.

Andrews Duane Zier
13 grads named young leaders

In its November issue, Interbusiness Issues magazine named 13 Bradley graduates as 40 Leaders Under Forty for the Class of 2015. The award recognizes their professional, civic and personal accomplishments. It also honors them for helping guide their respective businesses, agencies, organizations and communities to create a better future.

The magazine started the program 22 years ago as a way to highlight the emerging talent of the greater Peoria area. To date, a total of 880 alumni have earned this distinction.

Sponsors include the Theresa S. Falcon Executive MBA Program at Bradley, Caterpillar Inc., RLI Corp., Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino, Farnsworth Group, OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Commerce Bank, Gallagher Coyle, Quinn Johnston, Ameren Illinois and Comcast Business.

— B.G.

Thomas D. Aguilar ’12 Facility Planning Engineer Caterpillar Inc.

Cara Parks Allen ’00 Director of Marketing Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

Ann O’Rusza Bond ’08 M.A. ’09 Principal Peoria Public Schools District 150

Nina Deebello Bush ’09 M.A. ’13 Project Manager OSF Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Molly Kouri Dreneckpohl M.A. ’08 Associate Director/Career Adviser Smith Career Center Bradley University

Alexis Duhon ’09 Veterans’ Service Officer Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs

Rose Freeman-Mellen ’10 Director of Recruitment Northwestern Mutual Greater Peoria

Nicholas Heskett ’01 Retail Sales Manager Commerce Bank

Katie Cahill Kappes ’02 MSA ’02 Asst. VP Human Resources RLI Corp.

Angela Martin-Moushon ’02 Business Strategy Planner Caterpillar Inc.

Dorian Mosack ’10 Owner CrossFit 309

Jodi Salvatori Tarter ’03 Regional Sales Manager Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino

Barbara Toohill ’03 Clinical Psychologist/Co-owner Antioch Group

For complete biographies of each awardee, please visit the November 2015 issue of Interbusiness Issues magazine at peoriamagazines.com/ibi/2015/nov.

PRSA Chicago has named Victoria Gestner ’10 its Young PR Professional of the Year. She works at Henson Consulting.

Niall Martin ’09 owns Nu Crepes in Elmhurst, Ill. He also is a personal trainer and fitness instructor for the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago.

Martin Pazanin ’09 is girls basketball head coach at Mundelein High School in Illinois, where he also serves as a special education teacher. Previously, he coached at Illinois Valley Central High School in Chillicothe, Ill., and at Champaign Central High School (Ill.).
Kathryn Henry ‘10 and Joseph Harvath ‘10 married Oct. 3. Kathryn earned a master’s degree in public health and Joseph received his juris doctorate, both from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. They live in Edwardsville, Ill.

Jonathan Hook ‘10 earned his master’s degree in healthcare administration from Rosalind Franklin University (Ill.) where he also earned his doctorate in podiatric medicine. Jonathan is a resident physician at Mercy Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago.

Alex Mayster ‘10 won three third-place awards in the National Newspaper Association’s 2015 Better Newspaper Editorial Contest. He works at The Glenview Lantern, part of 22nd Century Media.

Jadda Castaneda ‘11 is a math teacher at Butler Junior High School in Oak Brook, Ill. She previously taught in Creve Coeur, Ill., and Pekin, Ill.

Rachel Grumbine ‘11 and Kris McKinnis married May 2. Rachel is a registered dietitian at Kindred Hospital Chicago-Northlake. The couple lives in Darien, Ill.

Coby Thompson ‘11 is a first-year resident in anesthesiology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. A standout golfer at Bradley and winner of the Charles Orsborn Award for the top graduating student-athlete, he holds a medical degree from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

Hope Grandon ‘11 serves as chief public relations strategist for the Denver Center for the Performing Arts Theatre Company. Previously, she worked for the Denver Art Museum, where she was part of a team that won state and national recognition, including the Silver Anvil award, from the Public Relations Society of America.

Alex Malamos ‘11 and Andrea Kim ‘11 married in June. They live in Bloomingdale, Ill.

The Illinois School Counselor Association has named Dana Smith ‘12 its middle school counselor of the year for 2015. She works at Manual Middle School in Peoria where she lives with her husband, Martin, and their three children. Dana earned a post-master’s certificate in school counseling from Bradley.

Nikki Wilder ‘13 serves as corporate PR/social media coordinator for Alpha Media USA. She formerly worked as an interactive producer for Alpha Media and in sales and marketing for Central Illinois Homes Guide.

Samuel Greifzu ‘14 joined the St. Louis regional office of Hanson Professional Services Inc. He provides foundation design for Ameren’s Illinois Rivers Project and structural design for transportation projects.

Amber Miller ‘15 serves as promotions director at WPIA/Peoria.

Dana Smith ‘12 has been named middle school counselor of the year for 2015. She works at Manual Middle School in Peoria where she lives with her husband, Martin, and their three children. Dana earned a post-master’s certificate in school counseling from Bradley.

Wojciech Wojcik ‘14 signed to play with the Indy Eleven of the North American Soccer League. The Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year his senior season, he started his professional career in Finland.

Patrick Flanagan ‘15 is the varsity baseball coach at Eaton High School in Ohio. A former Bradley pitcher, he was an assistant coach with the Richmond RiverRats of the Prospect League and at Richmond High School in Indiana.

Emylee Anderson ‘14 MBA ‘16 (middle) collaborated on a paper with Aaron Buchko MBA ‘83, professor of management and leadership, and Kathleen Hughbanks Buchko ‘82, associate professor and director of the counseling research and training clinic, named best management paper by the North American Management Society. Aaron Buchko earned a doctorate from Michigan State University and Kathleen Buchko has master’s and doctoral degrees from Michigan State. He also was named to the board of Triple S, a member-owned, national distribution and logistics company. Aaron has taught at Bradley since 1989, while Kathleen has been at the University since 1998.

Samuel Greifzu ‘14 is the varsity baseball coach at Eaton High School in Ohio. A former Bradley pitcher, he was an assistant coach with the Richmond RiverRats of the Prospect League and at Richmond High School in Indiana.

Nikki Wilder ‘13 serves as corporate PR/social media coordinator for Alpha Media USA. She formerly worked as an interactive producer for Alpha Media and in sales and marketing for Central Illinois Homes Guide.

Patrick Flanagan ‘15 is the varsity baseball coach at Eaton High School in Ohio. A former Bradley pitcher, he was an assistant coach with the Richmond RiverRats of the Prospect League and at Richmond High School in Indiana.
In Memory

1930s

Ruth Lied ’33, Dec. 15, Peoria
Florence Johnson Reuter ’39, Oct. 4, Galesburg, Ill.

1940s

Theodore Cation ’40, Oct. 21, Peoria
Mary Daglas Harris ’40, Sept. 15, Dunlap, Ill.
Elizabeth “Libby” Falkner Dore Cannon ’47, Nov. 27, St. Louis
Russell Larson ’47, Nov. 25, Dunlap, Ill.
Jack Wells ’47, Nov. 12, Sarasota, Fla.
Robert Strand ’48, Sept. 27, East Peoria, Ill.
Wayne Dimmick ’49 M.S. ’62, Oct. 13, Peoria

1950s

John Donnell ’50, Nov. 2, Pontiac, Ill.
Winifred Anderson Golden ’50 M.S. ’57, Dec. 26, Peoria
John Isley ’50, Sept. 26, Springfield, Ill.
Harry Johnson ’50, Oct. 24, Prophetstown, Ill.
John “Jack” McGrath ’50, Nov. 28, Peoria
Gusta Peterson Bolam ’51, Nov. 13, Pekin, Ill.
James B. Conklin ’51, Dec. 5, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.
Dale Cramer ’51, Sept. 4, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Thomas H. Donlan ’51, Sept. 4, Peoria
Patsy Lew Lum ’51, Nov. 1, Honolulu

Kent Strandberg ’51, Aug. 29, Hoffman Estates, Ill.
Russell Whitgrove ’51, Nov. 9, Rockford, Ill.
Frank King ’52, Nov. 4, Belleville, Ill.
Phyllis “Jean” Cassens Slater ’52, March 29, 2015, Sealy, Texas
Eleanor Monier Brown ’53, Nov. 30, Peoria
John “Skip” Muller ’53, Nov. 1, Lakeland, Fla.
Robert Sato ’53, Aug. 26, Honolulu
James Allen ’54, Dec. 12, Peoria
Gwendolyn Mason Fritze ’54, Nov. 9, Birmingham, Ala.
Lloyd “Junior” Howard ’54, Sept. 3, Prairie City, Ill.
Robert Itschner M.A. ’54, Jan. 4, Peoria
Joyce Pottorf Mapel ’54, Oct. 15, Vero Beach, Fla.
David Shively ’54, Dec. 12, Rochester, Minn.
Gordon Biggar ’55, Dec. 12, Carol Stream, Ill.
Jack Chitty ’56, Aug. 5, Milwaukee, Ore.
Charles “Dick” Gillett ’56, Oct. 13, Peoria
Clifford Rugh ’56, Nov. 11, Dixon, Ill.
Orian Heuermann ’57, Nov. 30, Sarasota, Fla.
George Kraut ’57, Nov. 22, Wilmington, Del.
Alfred “Jim” Robertson ’57, Oct. 21, Kirkland, Wash.
William Grogan ’58, Feb. 17, Fairfield, Ill.
Linn Jager ’58, Sept. 27, Yorkville, Ill.
Velde “Swede” Lee ’58, Oct. 21, East Peoria, Ill.
Dona Donnelly Sutter ’58, Sept. 13, Peoria
Wendell Barton ’59, Dec. 2, Germantown Hills, Ill.
John Nofsinger ’59, Sept. 26, Phoenix
Dickson Young M.A. ’59, Oct. 2, Dunlap, Ill.

A great magazine needs great stories. So, if you’ve ever thought to yourself, “I wish Bradley Hilltopics would write about…” here’s your chance to make that happen! Send your ideas to hilltopics@bradley.edu.
In Memory

1960s

Rowland Bellows ’60, Oct. 5, Washburn, Ill.
Howard “Joe” Wiles ’60 M.A. ’73, Nov. 26, Peoria
James Fowler ’61, Dec. 24, Germantown Hills, Ill.
Daniel Herman ’61, Sept. 5, Lake Carroll, Ill.
J.C. Kline ’61, Sept. 2, Bmfield, Ill.
Judy Roth St. Clair-Bradley ’61, Dec. 16, Palm Desert, Calif.
Dennis Aldred ’62, Oct. 13, Elmhurst, Ill.
Georgia Anton ’62 M.A. ’66, Dec. 9, Peoria
Sandra Otto Foli ’62, Nov. 5, Secor, Ill.
Frank Gatto Jr. ’62, Sept. 19, Oak Forest, Ill.
Ronald Poling ’62, Dec. 29, Morrison, Ill.
Robert Zeldenrust ’62, Nov. 18, Highland, Ind.
Elaine Timerman Belsley ’63, Oct. 8, Morton, Ill.
J. Bryce Hessing ’63 MBA ’71, Jan. 5, Germantown Hills, Ill.
Allan Miller ’63, Nov. 20, East Peoria, Ill.
Nancy Taylor Nealon ’63, Nov. 4, Birmingham, Ala.
Phyllis Russell ’63, Nov. 10, Peoria
William Foli ’64, July 31, Secor, Ill.
Donald Selvy ’64, Nov. 25, Tucson, Ariz.
Mary Witzig Winings M.A. ’64, Sept. 20, Sandwich, Mass.
Bruce Beck ’65, June 29, Oak Park, Ill.
Joan Herzfeld Brune M.A. ’65, Sept. 3, Peoria
Allen Elliott ’65, Sept. 25, North Syracuse, N.Y.
Patricia Sleight Frank ’65, Oct. 19, Eureka, Ill.
James M. Gorrell ’65, Oct. 20, Peoria
Julienne Herrmann Lampal ’65, Nov. 17, Las Vegas
Alice Allen Prentiss M.S. ’65, Dec. 30, Edelstein, Ill.
Alan W. Smith ’65, April 17, Plano, Texas
Robert Breuhaus ’66, Nov. 21, Lewistown, Ill.
David Downs ’66 M.A. ’71, Nov. 23, Peoria
William A. Hill ’66 M.A. ’71, Sept. 2, Peoria
Gary Kling M.E.A. ’66, Aug. 21, Indianapolis
Roger Lower ’66, Sept. 26, Florissant, Mo.
Kenneth Makowka ’66, Nov. 3, Wilton, Conn.
Bruce Dimler ’67, Aug. 26, Peoria
Carol Neff Van Matre ’67, Aug. 29, Lake Geneva, Wis.
Ruth Bond Boyd ’68, Sept. 4, Peoria
Carl “Bud” Schmitt M.A. ’68, Nov. 27, East Peoria, Ill.
Michael D. McDonald ’69, Nov. 14, Morton, Ill.

1970s

Barbara Polick Ankney M.A. ’71, Jan. 1, Washburn, Ill.
Carl Hasteen ’71, Nov. 25, Fenton, Mo.
Temple “Rusty” Ohl ’71, Nov. 23, Peoria
Theodore Wolff ’71, Sept. 22, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.
Lee Hathaway ’72, Nov. 3, Frisco, Texas
Marilyn Joseph ’72 M.A. ’78, Nov. 30, Peoria
George “Joe” Johnson ’73, Sept. 19, Lutz, Fla.
Ethel Smith ’73, Nov. 25, St. Louis
Martin Stromberger M.A. ’73, Nov. 1, Metamora, Ill.
Thomas Yaeger ’73, July 5, Elgin, Ill.
Jean Russell ’74 M.A. ’78, March 10, Kewanee, Ill.
Jack Sales ’74, Dec. 8, Downingtown, Pa.
David L. Edwards ’75, Dec. 4, Lino Lakes, Minn.
Susan Simonson ’75 M.A. ’80, Oct. 10, Peoria
Lorine Schumacher Stoller ’75, Sept. 2, Eureka, Ill.
Christine Coolidge Jones M.A. ’76, Nov. 25, Wooster, Ohio
David Facker ’77, Sept. 29, Germantown Hills, Ill.
Patricia Lambert McMahan ’78, Dec. 8, St. Louis

1980s

Michael Gibbons ’80, Oct. 31, Lee’s Summit, Mo.
Anthony J. Couri ’81, Nov. 3, Peoria
Hasan Houston ’81, March 24, 2014, San Jose, Calif.
Randy Smith ’82, Nov. 1, Glasford, Ill.
Stephen Miley ’83, Nov. 18, Rockford, Ill.
Kevin Cox ’84, Dec. 5, East Peoria, Ill.
Jane Alden ’85, May 5, Lakewood, Calif.
Donna Brookhart M.A. ’86, Nov. 7, Peoria
Dorothy “Dottie” Powell Vanier ’86, Sept. 26, Peoria
Lloyd White ’87, Aug. 31, Chicago

1990s

Steven Clarbour ’91, Nov. 8, Wauconda, Ill.
Gary W. Martin M.A. ’97, Dec. 24, Peoria

2000s

Christina Carney Lord ’03, Oct. 19, Bolingbrook, Ill.
Bradley Jones ’10, Nov. 11, Southport, N.C.

2010s

Zakery Haubrich ’16, Dec. 14, Quincy, Ill.

Staff

Helen Evans M.A.’72, associate director of campus and community testing emeritus, Dec. 19, Jacksonville, Ore.
Faculty

Nina Reid Collins, the C.C. Wheeler Endowed Professor and chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences emerita, died Nov. 17 in Peoria, Ill.

She taught at Bradley from 1968 to 2011, becoming FCS chair in 1982. During her career on the Hilltop, Collins received the Putnam Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1993 and was the first woman president of the University Senate. A President’s Award recipient, she also earned honors from the Parents’ Association.

Collins, who received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and her doctorate from Oklahoma State University, wrote the book, “An Industrious and Useful Life: The History of Home Economics at Bradley University,” in 1994.

A Morton resident, surviving are her husband, Kent Collins M.S. ’72, daughter Karen Collins-Gardner ’00, a son, seven grandchildren and a sister.


Department chair for 12 years, he also served as associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for 16 years. Active on several committees, including as chair of the General Education Committee, he was instrumental in facilitating the university’s Degree Audit Reporting System.

He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and a doctorate at the University of Denver.

Surviving are his wife, Linda, two daughters and four grandchildren, including Abigail Jockisch ’19.

Myrtle Kent M.A. ’60, assistant professor of English emerita, died Dec. 18 in Naperville, Ill.

She taught at Bradley from 1961–91 and helped create the Women’s Studies program. Along with her husband, the late Thomas Kent, associate professor of English emeritus, she was active with her church in Peoria.

Surviving are one daughter and one grandson.
Alumni Connections

Alumni Events

April 8 // Peoria
CIBAC Wine Tasting; 5–7:30 p.m., Peplow Pavilion at the Hayden-Clark Alumni Center; $20 in advance, $30 at the door.

April 16 // Peoria
Phi Gamma Delta Annual Frank Norris Pig Dinner; 5 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner; $60 per person.

April 22–24 // Peoria
BUBAA “Back Where It All Began” reunion; various locations and events; check bualum.org/bubaareunion for complete schedule.

April 28 // Chicago
Afternoon at the Morton Arboretum with James Ballowe; lunch and presentation at noon, 1:30–2:30 p.m. guided tram tour, 2:30–3:30 p.m. guided walk; $35 per person.

May 14 // Peoria
Commencement

June 27–30 // Reno, Nev.
Bradley Veterans Reunion

Aug. 5 // Peoria
CIBAC Bratfest

Visit bualum.org/events for details and registration, or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (309) 677-3565 or (800) 952-8258.

Director’s Corner Tory McCord Jennetten ’96

It’s an exciting time on campus as we welcome Gary Roberts ’70 as Bradley’s 11th president. The first alumnus president since Martin “Jerry” Abegg ’47 HON ’93 from 1970–92, Roberts brings a unique perspective to the university. He started his duties Jan. 1 after working as dean and professor at McKinney School of Law at Indiana University in Indianapolis and at Tulane University’s law school. After arriving in town with his wife, Donna, Roberts met students, faculty, staff and area leaders at a series of receptions. We wish him the best as he settles into his new role.

Thanks to all who joined us Feb. 20 for Alumni Night at Carver Arena. They saw the Braves rally for a 73-70 men’s basketball victory over Drake University in Bradley’s 1,000th game in the Missouri Valley Conference and enjoyed a pregame gathering at the Peoria Civic Center. A group of outstanding Bradley athletes also were honored at the event.

Please mark your calendars to join us for Homecoming 2016 as we celebrate the legacy of our beloved founder, Lydia Moss Bradley. The weeklong celebration starts Sept. 11 and is combined this year with Family Weekend events. Enjoy your favorite Homecoming activities such as the Lighting of the B and the tailgate and soccer game Sept. 17 against Evansville. We’d love to have you back on the Hilltop.

Hail, Red and White,

Tory McCord Jennetten ’96
Executive Director, Alumni Relations

Arlington Alumni and friends, including Director of Athletics Chris Reynolds, cheered on the Braves against UT Arlington in December.
A celebration of Frank Sinatra’s 100th birthday in November featured special performances by Doug Frank, Eric Petersen ’03, Todd Kelly, Andy Greiner ’15 and Stan Liberty HON ’16. The event took place before the show “Come Fly With Me,” starring Petersen and the Bradley Jazz Ensemble. More than 100 alumni, friends and prospective students joined staff members from several departments in January to see Bradley score a 54-53 victory over Loyola. Pictured, from left, are Bobby Hack ’15, Luke Foresman ’15 and Navid Kassam ’14. More than 225 alumni and community leaders attended a January reception for President Gary Roberts ’70 and his wife, Donna. Chris Reynolds, director of athletics, met with alumni and friends at a pregame party for the men’s basketball game against Arizona in November. Shown, back row left to right, Wally Kniaz ’62, Kevin Garcia ’85, Jim Pearson ’66, Reynolds, Kay McCord, Mike Greenspon M.A. ’64, Mike Rombold; Front row, Patricia Hyry Koch ’63, Dawn Garcia ’82. Bradley’s new president visited with nearly 90 alumni and friends in early February at the Union League Club. Included in the gathering were several former members of the speech and debate teams, (from left), Douglas Springer ’68 M.A. ’71 M.A. ’99, Amy Bullock Daleo ’98, Tom Doyle ’87, Roberts ’70, Lynn Wirth Daugerdas ’84, Cheryl Corley ’76 and Steve Sudhoff ’84. Nearly 60 friends and alumni, including hosts Jay ’59 and Joan Lorig Janssen ’69, welcomed the Robertses to the Hideaway Beach Club in Marco Island, Fla., Feb. 26. Shown above are Joan Janssen, Nanette and Mike Finkle, and Roberts. Visit the Alumni Association’s flickr page at flickr.com/BradleyAlumni to view more photos.
Hilltop View Keeping the dream alive

Members of the Bradley community joined local residents Jan. 18 for the 31st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom March to celebrate the legacy of the slain civil rights leader. To spread King’s dream of equality for everyone, the marchers made signs containing his quotes and walked from the Romeo B. Garrett Cultural Center on the Bradley campus to New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church for a commemorative service and awards ceremony. The university was one of the event’s sponsors.
Mark your calendars for a weekend of exciting events:

Homecoming 2016
Founder’s Day Convocation celebrating Lydia Moss Bradley’s 200th birthday
Family Weekend

It’s all happening Sept. 16–17 on the Bradley University campus!

For more info, call 309-677-2240 or visit bualum.org/homecoming.