Greetings from the Hilltop as another highly intelligent and motivated group of young people has begun its collegiate journey in Bradley red. Welcoming our new freshmen and their families to campus is always a wonderfully rewarding experience. Though their backgrounds and aspirations vary, five members of the Class of 2018 profiled in this issue share a contagious enthusiasm for the University and all it has to offer.

As former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt famously said, “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” It is my pleasure to watch those dreams take hold here, among the rich history and storied traditions that prepared our 75,000-plus alumni for personal and professional success. Each fall, I thank founder Lydia Moss Bradley for this tremendous gift — the lasting legacy that is Bradley University.

Speaking of legacy, in this issue of Bradley Hilltopics, you’ll meet several families who truly bleed Bradley red. Their Bradley bonds are strong, whether between parents and children, brothers and sisters, or multiple generations of proud alumni.

One of the reasons I so enjoy my job is the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life and all corners of the globe with a Bradley connection. Like many of us, they may not have known precisely what they wanted to do with their careers when they graduated, but they were certain they wanted to make an impact.

Inside, you will read about five alumni who proved to be creative problem solvers in unexpected careers. Following a career as director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), David Brant ’74 entered the business world and built a public sector-focused practice to deliver accounting, auditing and consulting services to state, local and federal markets. Dr. Ron Jost ’70 took the opposite path. After retiring as a corporate vice president at Motorola, he joined the federal government and serves as a deputy assistant secretary of defense. Kathy Corso, MA ’98 finely tuned her counseling skills in The Graduate School, later transitioning from counseling to developing a variety of programs addressing community needs. Along with his brothers and a friend, George Eid ’94 established the popular restaurant, One World Cafe, across the street from campus. Now, his company, AREA 17, works in interactive space from offices in New York and Paris. With a flair for international development and philanthropy, Khalid Al-Naif ’81 directs a university-based think tank that allows him to solve problems worldwide.

In addition to reading about our illustrious alumni, I invite you to return to campus for Homecoming festivities October 15–18. You’ll find the schedule on page 50. Our celebration begins on Wednesday evening with a rekindled tradition that is one of my favorites: the ceremonial lighting of the “B” on top of Bradley Hall. The 8-foot-tall “B” is made up of hundreds of tiny lights; as legend has it, the first one represents the first student who enrolled at the University in 1897. The second shines in memory of all alumni lost. The other bulbs glow for all alumni and current students. Together, they create a powerful beacon for us to find our way back to our Hilltop home.

As I am fond of saying, when you come to Bradley, you not only become a member of the University community, you become a lifetime member of the Bradley family. I thank you for helping strengthen the legacy of our wonderful institution in all that you do.

Warm regards,
Read Your Bradley Yearbook Online

Anyone with an Internet connection now can access, browse, search and print pages from all 106 Bradley yearbooks for free, at any time, from anywhere.

Legacy Family Trees Take Root

Family is at the heart of the Hilltop, especially for students who continue legacies established by their grandparents, parents and siblings.

From Bradley to the World

From Peoria to Paris to the Pentagon and more, Bradley graduates continue to find innovative ways to answer some of their organizations’ most compelling challenges.

Class of 2018: Bright, BOLD & Big on Bradley

The University welcomed another group of outstanding freshmen to campus this fall, including these five students who will go far at Bradley and beyond.

Departments

Bradley Bits ........................................... 2
Bradley Avenue ..................................... 4
Bookplate .................................................. 9
Research Scene .......................................... 10

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Bradley is a private, independent university in Peoria, Illinois, offering 5,700 students the choice of more than 100 academic programs. Bradley links academic excellence, experiential learning and leadership development with an entrepreneurial spirit for a world-class education. Our size provides students extensive resources not available at most private colleges and the personal attention not commonly found at large universities.

Veterans Memorial Park in Peoria, Illinois, was rededicated in honor of the late U.S. Army Gen. JOHN SHALIKASHVILI ’58 HON ’94. The former University Trustee and Centurion served as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and supreme allied commander of Europe for NATO.

An expert on the abolitionist movement, Dr. STACEY ROBERTSON, Oglesby Professor of American Heritage, presented three talks on the subject in the United Kingdom this May. Her host, Dr. Richard Blackett, was the 2013–14 Harmsworth Fellow at the Rothermere American Institute at Oxford University, where she presented “The Abolitionist Body: Free Produce and the Transatlantic Antislavery Movement.”

BRAD McMILLAN, executive director of the Institute for Principled Leadership in Public Service at Bradley, spoke about Capt. Zeally Moss — father of University founder Lydia Moss Bradley — at a ceremony honoring him as the only Revolutionary War veteran buried in Peoria’s historic Springdale Cemetery. Visit bradley.edu/go/ht-ZeallyMossPlaque to read both sides of the plaque erected on the cemetery’s Soldier’s Hill.

While my name may be on the sign, all of the people who worked on this share the honor.

Cookbook author and food blogger SHAUNA SEVER ’00 claimed second place on Food Network’s snack food competition Rewrapped, where she had to re-create Entenmann’s chocolate chip cookies then use them in an innovative recipe.

Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation RAY LaHOOD ’71 HON ’11 was recognized by his hometown of Peoria when the city renamed the section of Interstate 74 passing through it in the longtime Peoria congressman’s honor.

“HER FATHER’S PIONEER SPIRIT WAS EMBODIED IN HIS DAUGHTER.”

Bradley is a private, independent university in Peoria, Illinois, offering 5,700 students the choice of more than 100 academic programs. Bradley links academic excellence, experiential learning and leadership development with an entrepreneurial spirit for a world-class education. Our size provides students extensive resources not available at most private colleges and the personal attention not commonly found at large universities.
Hall of Fame broadcaster JACK BRICKHOUSE ’37 HON ’90 was honored with his likeness on a giveaway bobblehead at the Chicago Cubs game against the St. Louis Cardinals on July 25. A University Trustee from 1975–87, his storied career began with announcing Bradley basketball games on the radio. Visit Bradley.edu/go/ht-BrickhouseBobble to hear the talking figure call Ernie Banks’ 506th home run.

Just one day after the World Cup concluded in Brazil, BRYAN NAMOFF ’04 appeared on NBC’s Today Show to discuss the growing epidemic of concussions among professional soccer players, including his own head injury.

During her six-week internship at the United Nations Foundation, MARISA GOLDSTEIN ’16 had a rare opportunity to bowl in the White House. A political science major, she was one of 41 Jewish college students in Washington with the Religious Action Center’s Machon Kaplan program.

Mechanical engineering major DREW MARINELLI ’15 put his skills to the test when he appeared on the St. Louis qualifying episode of NBC’s American Ninja Warrior. He made it to the fifth of six obstacles — the double-tilt ladder — before his run ended in the pool. Visit bradley.edu/go/ht-NinjaWarrior to watch his application video.

Kaboom!, the University’s mascot, celebrated Independence Day by appearing in the West Peoria, Illinois, 4th of July parade.

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VP Selected for Division of Student Affairs

The University named Nathan Thomas as its new vice president of student affairs in June. Having served in the office as interim vice president since January 2013, he originally came to Bradley in 2000 as director of Greek life, transitioning to executive director of the Center for Residential Living and Leadership in 2004.

“Nathan demonstrated strong leadership skills while serving as the interim vice president of student affairs and has earned a reputation for his concern for students in and out of the classroom,” said President Joanne Glasser. “His passion for and deep knowledge of the University will continue to enhance the quality of the Bradley Experience.”

A past recipient of the Francis C. Mergen Award for Public Service, he previously was director of chapter services for Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Thomas earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Southeast Missouri State University and his MBA from Eastern Illinois University; he currently is working toward his doctorate in educational administration and foundations at Illinois State University. He and his wife, Erin, have one son.

— C.M.

Graduate School Expands International Appeal

The Graduate School has broadened its reach with a 95 percent increase in international applications for the fall 2014 semester, representing 386 more applications than the previous year.

This growth resulted in an 85 percent increase in international students admitted to Bradley’s graduate programs than the previous year, which yielded 185 new international graduate students registering for fall semester. Several key University efforts contributed to this expansion.

Dr. Jeffrey P. Bakken, associate provost for research and dean of The Graduate School, and Dr. Steven Dolins, associate professor and chair of the computer science and information systems department, spent two weeks in India last September. Traveling to the cities of New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai, they met with hundreds of potential graduate students to discuss programs and opportunities at Bradley.

The University also implemented a simpler online application system and established initiatives to help acclimate new international students, such as group travel options, help locating housing and more intense orientations. According to Bakken, they also have “created networking and social media groups where admitted students can connect with each other prior to arriving on campus.”

Overall, graduate school applications were up 75 percent and admissions were up 64 percent over 2013.

— C.M.

Bradley’s elementary education degree has been revised to align with changes in the state Board of Education’s Administrative Code, making it one of the first programs in Illinois to do so.

Included in the degree program is an English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement enabling Bradley elementary education graduates to teach ESL. The University previously did not offer an ESL endorsement and is now the only school in the state with such a feature.

The state’s Educator Preparation and Licensure Board approved a plan by the College of Education and Health Sciences for the redesigned program for elementary education majors, which will be available next fall.

— B.G.
Rankings Tout Bradley

Bradley was ranked fourth in the Midwest by U.S. News and World Report — an improvement of one spot from last year — and recognized as a Top 10 “best value school” in the region in the publication’s 2015 edition of Best Colleges. The magazine also gave the University’s engineering program a ranking in the Top 35 nationwide.

The University was recently ranked highly in other national publications, as well. Visit bradley.edu/go/ht-Rankings2014 to read about all Bradley’s accolades.

— B.G.

Warhol Works Displayed at Bradley

Six screenprints by famed artist Andy Warhol, donated to the University by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, were displayed in Heuser Art Gallery during August and September.

Included in the exhibit were some of the 150 Polaroid and black-and-white Warhol photographs the Foundation gave the University in 2008. “We are fortunate to have received two gifts from them,” noted Erin Buczynski, director of University Galleries, Exhibitions and Collections, adding Bradley was one of 183 universities, colleges and institutions nationwide to share in more than 28,500 Warhol photographs. The artist often used the Polaroid photos as a basis for creating his screenprints and other art, according to Buczynski. She called the black-and-white photos “snapshots of Warhol’s day-to-day life.”

The prints are designated for education and research purposes. Buczynski said this specification provides an opportunity for current and former students, as well as others, to study the collection. “The Warhol works speak to the history of art and the technical processes we teach at Bradley,” Buczynski commented, adding that the University’s printmaking program is internationally known. “These six screenprints are vital works to showcase to students. It’s important for us and our art program to have works that speak to what we teach.”

The Warhol Foundation is considered a leader in supporting the visual arts and has donated hundreds of millions of dollars in grants and art since it was founded in 1987 after the artist’s death.

— B.G.
FLUTE ASSOCIATION ELECTS PROFESSOR

Dr. Kyle Dzapo, Caterpillar Professor of Music, was elected president-elect of the National Flute Association at the group’s 2014 annual convention in Chicago. She will serve a two-year term as vice president starting in November followed by a two-year term as president of the 5,000-member association. Currently in her second year as director of Bradley’s Honors Program, Dzapo was principal flutist for the Peoria Symphony Orchestra for 20 years and continues as a soloist, chamber musician and flute professor. Before being awarded a Caterpillar professorship, the University recognized her work with the Caterpillar Inc. New Faculty Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Samuel Rothberg Professional Excellence Award.

“Notes for Performers” series and a pre-concert lecturer for the Chicago Symphony. Dzapo also has written books and journal articles and produced CDs.

Jobs fair: Duane Zehr, Beta Alpha Psi: courtesy Beta Alpha Psi, Dzapo: Photography by Jill.

Beta Alpha Psi Wins Gold Again

Bradley’s chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the national honorary organization for financial information students and professionals, was again named a Gold Chapter at the 2014 BAP Annual Meeting in Atlanta in August. The chapter received a $2,500 award.

It was the fifth time in six years that Bradley’s group has won the award. Only 15 chapters out of about 300 worldwide are designated Gold Chapters, according to Dr. Simon Petravick, accounting professor and department chair who is BAP’s faculty adviser.

“It is the highest honor a chapter can receive, and it’s awarded to chapters that go well above and beyond BAP requirements,” Petravick said.

Amy Zimmermann ’15 was one of 72 annual meeting participants selected for Project Run With It. In that event, the students teamed up to devise a possible solution for a problem faced by a not-for-profit agency.

“Amy’s group developed many great suggestions. We were very glad to have this chance to participate in several ways,” Petravick said, noting four other students — Amy Mentgen ’14, Kristina Korwin ’15, Ann Hofmann ’15 and Rebecca Markham ’15 — gave a presentation on how to keep chapter members active.

— B.G.
Professor Honored in Homeland

A celebrity in his mother country of Nigeria, Bradley journalism professor Dr. Olantunji Dare was honored in his homeland this summer.

Leading politicians, scholars and media, as well as Dare’s former students and other peers, gathered in Nigeria on July 17, Dare’s 70th birthday, for a celebration that included a lecture by his friend and contemporary at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, professor Kwame Karikari of the University of Ghana, Legon, titled “Memories of Censorship: Struggling for Press Freedom in Africa.” The event also was highlighted by the release of a new collection of essays written in his honor. “Some friends — some I had mentored, some professional colleagues — said they should put out a book to mark the occasion. I didn’t know about it,” Dare said of Public Intellectuals, the Public Sphere & the Public Spirit: Essays in Honour of Olatunji Dare. “I was overwhelmed.”

Dare has personal experience regarding freedom of the press in Africa. He is a former journalist for The Guardian, a highly respected newspaper in Nigeria that was shut down during a period of military dictatorship in 1994. Dare and others at the newspaper were placed under surveillance; some disappeared. He was urged to flee for his safety, which he did — “through the back door” by way of the Republic of Benin.

On a visit to Nigeria, Dr. Chris Ogan, one of his professors at Indiana University where he pursued his doctorate, had urged Dare to take a break from the difficult circumstances under which he was working to teach in the United States. Dare had demurred, saying there was work to do at home. Finding himself without a job and his safety not guaranteed, Dare finally turned to Ogan for help. Ogan posted Dare’s resume in a trade journal, and he was soon offered a position at Bradley where he has remained since 1996.

Recalling his early days on the Hilltop, Dare shared, “When I first arrived as a refugee, it was really a stressful period for me, but my colleagues embraced me. They helped a great deal — helped me settle down and regain my focus.”

He remains a highly respected journalist and beloved satirist in Nigeria, writing weekly columns about politics, national and international events, social trends and other topics for the Nigerian newspaper The Nation, available at thenationonlineng.net. When previously asked about his retirement plans, Dare replied, “I may stop teaching in the near future, but I can’t stop writing. To ask me to stop writing is to ask me to commit journalistic suicide, and I’m not ready to allow people to write my journalistic obituary.”

— Dr. Olantunji Dare

Pedestrians at Center of New Intersection

The newly redesigned intersection of Main and University streets adjacent to campus opened just before the University’s spring Commencement. The renovation — with wider sidewalks, traffic-calming features and on-street parking — allows students, faculty, staff and area residents to cross the streets either at right angles or diagonally for a quicker walk to and from campus and the surrounding neighborhoods. The Bradley Athletics “B” shield also was inset on all four corners. The transformation to a more pedestrian-friendly design started after a water main break closed the intersection for an extended period last year.
Read Your Bradley Yearbook Online

Every Bradley University yearbook — from 1901 through 2006 — is now available for browsing online by anyone with an Internet connection thanks to the diligence of the Cullom-Davis Library Special Collections staff and a grant from the Consortium of Academic Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI). The University discontinued yearbook production after the 2006 Anaga.

Originally announced by CARLI last fall, the Yearbook Digitization Project provided funding for the consortium’s founding members, including Bradley. While the process is often automated, CARLI’s scanning and Web hosting contractor, Internet Archives, uses a completely manual method to preserve delicate documents. Once scanned, optical character recognition (OCR) software converts the images of the printed text into a format searchable by keyword. Simultaneously, the system creates high-quality, full-color reproductions of the photographs, giving users a more lifelike reading experience.

“The scanning is extremely high quality,” noted Special Collections librarian Charles Frey. “It is virtually indistinguishable from the original yearbook pages. … It’s one of the best jobs I’ve seen.”

Having researched the cost of digitizing the University’s yearbooks, Frey explained the value of the CARLI grant. “This is a process most schools find to be very lengthy and very expensive, so it’s great to just have it done for us,” he said. “A big digitization project is something a smaller institution really can’t do unless it’s stretched out over years. The benefit of the CARLI grant is that the work was done at no cost in a couple of months and didn’t detract from our other library business.”

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Now, alumni can peruse the yearbooks at their convenience, from anywhere, as well as search them and, if desired, print images from their own computers. Additionally, students conducting research for classes can access whatever yearbook data they need without waiting for the library to open, and the media can save time by independently locating and acquiring background information and images.

While Frey indicated the Special Collections staff would still be available to assist individuals with yearbook questions and photos, he believes users likely will enjoy the “instant gratification,” adding the staff is “really excited about the final product.”

— C.M.

ONLINE We want to know what you think of this project and how you’re using the digital yearbooks. Email us at hilltopics@bradley.edu to share your experience.

ACCESSING BRADLEY’S DIGITAL YEARBOOKS
2. Select “Departments,” then “Special Collections Center.”
3. Click on the yearbook name — Polyscope (1901–1949) or Anaga (1950–2006) — for a list of volumes.

BROWSING A YEARBOOK
1. Click “fullscreen” (located below the yearbook image window).
2. To flip through the book, use the arrows in the bottom right corner to “turn” the pages.
3. To search within the book, enter a term in the box at the top right corner and click “Go.” Then, click on the orange tabs at the bottom of the page to go directly to the searched term, which will be highlighted on the pages where it appears.
Recognizing a need to monitor typical girdr bridges for a variety of impacts, Dr. Yoon-Si Lee, assistant professor of civil engineering and construction, summarizes the development of an autonomous, continuous structural health monitoring (SHM) system for that purpose. Lee highlights two key system features that will aid owners with bridge management: integration and identification. First, it can be integrated into an active bridge management system that tracks usage and structural changes. Second, identification helps detect occurrences of overload, damage, deterioration and vehicle collisions with the structure.

**Structural Health Monitoring System**

**Recent Books Authored by Bradley Faculty**

**Visual Data and Their Use in Science Education**
Information Age Publishing / Edited by Drs. Kevin D. Finson, professor of teacher education and co-director of the Center for STEM Education, and Jon E. Pedersen, this book builds on their previous efforts to define the meaning of visual data as it relates to education. With a specific focus on science education, the publication contains contributions from individuals in the field who are actively researching and teaching with visual data. Opening with an examination of brain functions associated with visual data processing, it also delves into conceptual learning and change as well as the use of visual data in science classrooms from elementary to college.

**Advances in Special Education: Learning Disabilities: Practice Concerns and Students with LD (Vol. 25)**
Emerald Group Publishing Limited / Addressing the latest perspectives and issues related to learning disabilities (LD), this text from Dr. Jeffrey P. Bakken, associate provost for research and dean of The Graduate School, and his co-editors, Drs. Festus E. Obiakor and Anthony F. Rotatori, provides a thorough rationale and researched arguments for including students with LD in general education classrooms. The authors also offer ideas for educators instructing students with LD in reading, writing, math and social skills before concluding with chapters discussing response to intervention techniques, use of assistive technology and preparing teachers to work with students with LD.

**Business Research Methods (With Qualtrics Printed Access Card)**
South-Western / Cengage Learning / Ideal for undergraduate and first-year MBA courses in marketing, management and quantitative studies, this text from Drs. William G. Zikmund, Barry J. Babin, Jon C. Carr and Mitch Griffin, professor of marketing and coordinator of international business for Bradley's Foster College of Business, is in its ninth edition. Revised and expanded to include the most current and extensive coverage of business research, the edition features more examples of international business issues, online access to comprehensive cases for hands-on research experience, an improved style to enable greater focus and more.

**Neurotherapy and Neurofeedback: Brain-Based Treatment for Psychological and Behavioral Problems**
Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group / Drs. Theodore J. Chapin and Lori Russell-Chapin, associate dean of the College of Education and Health Sciences and co-director of the Center for Collaborative Brain Research, highlight the importance of neuroscientists' new understanding of the human brain and its lifelong ability to adapt and improve through the different experiences and challenges an individual faces. Providing a brief introduction and history of neurotherapy and neurofeedback, the book explains how brain dysregulation occurs and also how it can be taught to self-regulate and become more efficient through neurofeedback training.

— C.M.
After raising more than $34,000, students from Bradley’s chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), along with professionals from the Heart of Illinois (HOI) chapter, oversaw completion of the second major step in a five-year plan to bring clean drinking water to a small Guatemalan community last March.
BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

Located two miles south of the Mexican border, Nuevas Ilusiones is home to nearly 80 families (about 385 people), yet it lacks year-round access to a reliable source of potable water. With the help of a non-governmental agency, the community’s need was accepted and listed as an approved EWB project. “They were just waiting for a chapter to connect with the project, and that’s when we came in,” said Charles “Trip” Barton ’94 MSCE ’95, an EWB professional member and project manager for Maurer-Stutz Inc. “It’s kind of like Doctors Without Borders, but instead of treating people, we’re making them more efficient as a community,” noted biology and mechanical engineering major Jacob Abou-Hanna ’15. “We’re building a self-sufficient water treatment system. … Our job is to set them up for success, so they don’t need us anymore.”

Under the guidance and oversight of the HOI professional chapter, Bradley’s students spent more than two years conducting a majority of the preliminary engineering and fundraising work on campus between classes and other obligations. Split into four student-led teams, the participants shared progress updates online and at regular (weekly or biweekly) meetings.

TACKLING CHALLENGES TOGETHER

The Source Team, tasked with finding the water, quickly learned the United States makes this process much easier than most countries. Instead of a simple Web search, they had to connect with and gather data from contractors based around Nuevas Ilusiones. They also relied on information collected by students who visited the community on an assessment trip in early 2012. Having ruled out local springs due to insufficient water production, the Source Team settled on drilling a well while also recommending the use of rainwater catchment systems for gardening and other non-consumable purposes.

Laying out the plan for dealing with the water once it was found, the Storage Team had two main responsibilities. First, they had to select a storage tank, a decision that was restricted to locally available materials. Ultimately, they implemented a plastic tank as a temporary solution until the next phase of the project is funded, when they plan to construct a concrete tank on site. They then used topographic maps and GPS...
coordinates supplied by the assessment trip team to pinpoint the ideal tank location and elevation to generate enough pressure for the water to reach its intended distribution points.

Once they identified the required water access points with help from community members, the Distribution Team determined the necessary pipe size to ensure a steady water flow at all times. “The town is laid out in a triangle form where the center serves as a public area with a community center and church. We set up a grid that will feed the three legs of the triangle as well as the center,” Barton explained.

The last group, the Finance Team, focused on the project’s biggest hurdle: the money. Although many EWB projects receive large corporate or governmental grants through partnerships, the Nuevas Ilusiones well started at zero. After initially applying for and receiving grants from the Caterpillar Foundation and Bradley, the group continued to submit proposals for as many grants as possible while also engaging in traditional grassroots fundraising, efforts that culminated last March when seven of the participating students and several of their professional mentors visited the village to oversee drilling of the well and installation of the preliminary storage/distribution system.

GOING WITH THE FLOW

“The trip was a great success,” remarked mechanical engineering major Andrew Ebert ’15. “Not only did the drilling company hit water, but as a group, we were able to gather information about the community and environment that will enable us to continue with this project and give the community what it really needs.”

Elizabeth Perisin ’14, a civil engineering major, agreed: “The people in the community are now self-sufficient because of the hard work everyone put in, from hours of late-night design sessions to days of fundraising. This would not be possible without everyone’s dedication.”

According to Barton, 30 to 40 students have actively engaged with the project since its beginning. “The students were great. They were invested, and they had a great experience all around.”
B-Club Names Outstanding Athletes

A nationally recognized runner and the 2013 Missouri Valley Conference soccer Player of the Year were voted Most Outstanding Female and Male Athletes by Bradley coaches, staff, media and fans. Student-athletes must have earned All-Missouri Valley Conference honors during the current athletic year to be eligible.

Kristen Busch ’16 was named Most Outstanding Female Athlete. Along with her All-American honorable mention (see story left), she was the first Bradley runner since 1998 to compete at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, qualifying in the 5,000 and 10,000 meters and finishing 18th in the longer event. An all-conference choice in cross country and track, Busch won the 5,000 meters at the MVC Indoor Track Championships and the 10,000 title outdoors. She set school records in the 3,000 and 10,000 meters during the outdoor track season and the 5,000 indoors.

Wojciech Wojcik ’14 was named Most Outstanding Male Athlete. He was the first Bradley soccer player to lead the nation in a statistical category with a school-record 14 assists. A National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-Midwest Region first-team choice, he equaled the conference tournament single-game record with three assists in a quarterfinal game. He also contributed to all four Bradley goals during the team’s NCAA Tournament appearance, scoring three and assisting on one.

Runner Earns NCAA Honorable Mention

With her 18th-place finish in the 10,000 meters at the NCAA Championship in June, Kristen Busch ’16 was named an honorable mention All-American by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

Busch is the first Bradley runner to advance to the NCAA Championship since 1998. She recorded the top three times — and four of the top six performances — in the 10,000 in school history this season.

— B.G.

Kaboom! Claims MVC Title

The University’s mascot, Kaboom!, won the Missouri Valley Conference’s fourth annual Mascot Madness Tournament in July, becoming the first MVC champion of 2014–15.

The weeklong social media-based contest pairs mascots from each league school in a 10-team bracket, with fans voting to determine who will advance. Kaboom!, seeded fifth, beat Illinois State University’s Reggie Redbird and Loyola University, Chicago’s LU Wolf before defeating Drake’s bulldog Spike by a mere five votes in the championship.

Incoming Bradley freshman runner Luke Versweyveld (pictured with Kaboom!) also was a winner when the MVC drew his name for two free all-session passes to Arch Madness 2015 after he voted for the winning mascot in the final round to qualify.

— C.M.

Outfielder Catches Rookie Honor

Outfielder Max Murphy ’15 didn’t waste any time after being selected by his hometown Minnesota Twins in the ninth round of the Major League Baseball player draft in June. He spent just 35 games with the team’s Elizabethton, Tennessee, affiliate but was still named the rookie-level Appalachian League’s Player of the Year.

Murphy, the 70th overall draft pick from Bradley and the 122nd Braves player to sign with a major league organization, was promoted in July to the Class A Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Kernels in the Midwest League. While at Elizabethton, he hit .378 with 26 RBIs and was tied for the league’s lead in home runs with 10.

A second-team All-Missouri Valley Conference player in 2014, Murphy started 152 of 154 games while at Bradley. His 27 career home runs tied for sixth on the University’s all-time list. He also had 114 career RBIs with the Braves.

— B.G.
Track, Cross Country Coach Named

Coaching both men and women at Columbia, he developed two Olympic runners and 29 All-Americans. His teams won eight Ivy League titles, and his athletes made nine appearances in the NCAA Cross Country Championships. His runners also set 68 school records.

“I am excited for the opportunity to lead the Bradley cross country and track programs,” Wood said. “From my first step on campus, the people of Bradley were amazingly welcoming, and their desire for success was immediately evident.”

Last season, his Columbia men’s cross country team finished second at the NCAA Northeast Regional, ending the season ranked 12th nationally. The women’s cross country team ranked in the top 20 nationally four times during Wood’s tenure.

An All-American at Taylor University in Indiana, Wood is a member of the school’s Hall of Fame. His head coaching experience includes the University of North Carolina, Asheville, Kansas Wesleyan and Bethel College in Minnesota. He was an assistant coach at the University of Georgia and a graduate assistant at the University of Kansas and Pittsburg State University. Wood earned a master’s degree in physical education/exercise physiology from Pittsburg State.

“He is a highly accomplished coach who has achieved national success in a very rigorous academic environment,” commented Bradley athletic director Dr. Michael Cross. “His energy and enthusiasm for this opportunity were notable from our first conversation.”

— B.G.

TWO-TIME BASEBALL MVP LEADS PEORIA POLICE

Citing the commitment he learned on the baseball diamond as integral to his achievements, Bradley standout hitter Jerry Mitchell ’90 was named chief of the Peoria, Illinois, Police Department in September. A 24-year veteran at the department who worked his way up the ranks to assistant chief, Mitchell had served as interim chief since June.

Mitchell, who majored in administration of criminal justice, played baseball four years on the Hilltop, amassing a career .335 batting average and 85 RBIs. A third baseman-outfielder for the Braves, he was the team’s Most Valuable Player and batting leader his last two years at Bradley. His .384 batting average in 1989 is ninth on the school’s all-time list.

— B.G.

BATTLE OF CHAMPIONS

Bradley’s soccer team didn’t disappoint a record crowd of 3,099 at Shea Stadium, playing defending national champion and preseason top-ranked University of Notre Dame to a tie in the fifth annual Danny Dahlquist Memorial Game exhibition in August. GRANT BELL ’16 and CHRISTIAN OKEKE ’17 notched goals for the defending Missouri Valley Conference Tournament champion Braves.
### Preseason Exhibitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Game Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>RED-WHITE RIVER JAM (Peoria RiverFront) 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>SEASON-TICKET PREVIEW OPEN PRACTICE (Ren. Coliseum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>AUGUSTANA</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-ARLINGTON</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/19</td>
<td>ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY (Pa.)</td>
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### 2014 Corpus Christi Coastal Classic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>NORTH CAROLINA A&amp; T 4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>TEXAS A&amp;M-CORPUS CHRISTI 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>TCU (at Corpus Christi) 6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>Mississippi State or Saint Louis (at Corpus Christi) TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>CENTRAL MICHIGAN (Ren. Coliseum) 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>at Memphis 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/9</td>
<td>at Kansas State 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>EUREKA 7 p.m.</td>
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### 2014 South Point Holiday Hoops Classic

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/21</td>
<td>UC Irvine (at Las Vegas) 1:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/22</td>
<td>Green Bay or Arkansas-Little Rock (at Las Vegas) TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/28</td>
<td>ILLINOIS-CHICAGO 4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/31</td>
<td>at Loyola Chicago* 1 p.m.</td>
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<td>1/3</td>
<td>SOUTHERN ILLINOIS* 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>1/7</td>
<td>at Wichita State* 7:05 p.m.</td>
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<td>1/10</td>
<td>EVANSVILLE* 1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/13</td>
<td>NORTHERN IOWA* 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/17</td>
<td>at Illinois State* 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>1/21</td>
<td>at Southern Illinois* 7:05 p.m.</td>
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<td>1/24</td>
<td>MISSOURI STATE* 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>1/28</td>
<td>DRAKE* 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>1/31</td>
<td>at Indiana State* 12:05 p.m.</td>
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<td>2/4</td>
<td>WICHITA STATE* 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>2/7</td>
<td>at Evansville* 1:05 p.m.</td>
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<td>2/11</td>
<td>at Drake* 7:05 p.m.</td>
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<td>2/15</td>
<td>LOYOLA CHICAGO* TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/18</td>
<td>ILLINOIS STATE* 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>2/21</td>
<td>at Northern Iowa* 3 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/25</td>
<td>at Missouri State* 7:05 p.m.</td>
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<td>2/28</td>
<td>INDIANA STATE* 1 p.m.</td>
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### MVC Tournament

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>3/12–15</td>
<td>The Family Arena, St. Charles, Mo. TBA</td>
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### Men's Home Games

- Men’s home games are listed in **RED** and are played at Carver Arena, unless otherwise noted. Women’s home games are listed in **RED** and are played at Renaissance Coliseum, unless otherwise noted. Times listed are Central time zone and are subject to TV scheduling.

*Missouri Valley Conference game. Visit bradleybraves.com for the latest information.*
Nearly 120 years after Lydia Moss Bradley established the University as a memorial to her six children, family remains at the heart of the Hilltop. While most students become new limbs on the legacy tree, many join entire branches — and generations — of their own families as Bradley Braves.
The Heart of Bradley

With a University involvement spanning six decades and four generations of his family, Max Wessler ’52 refers to what he calls “the Bradley heart.”

“The institution is impersonal, a bunch of buildings occupying a chunk of land in Peoria,” noted the professor emeritus of mechanical engineering. “But for many who have spent time here as a student or faculty or staff member, the brick and mortar and the grounds take on a personality and spirit that lives within. ... It’s the people ... who care, including students, trustees, custodians, faculty and administration and the aura of Lydia Moss Bradley and the school’s founding. It is something we have the privilege of sharing.”

ORIGINS OF A LEGACY

Max was introduced to that spirit early in life through his mother, Wanda Proudfit Wessler, who attended Bradley’s Conservatory of Music around 1920. “Bradley was high in my consciousness because of my mom,” he explained. “She talked about it a lot.”

Max also acknowledged the school’s then-new Air Force ROTC unit influenced him to enroll as he contemplated the draft after high school. “If I was going into the service, it would be preferable to go in as an officer,” he commented.

While Max arrived on campus after graduating from a small high school in Arenzville, Illinois, his wife, Ardith Mehrings Wessler ’52, was introduced to the University much earlier. When she was born in 1930, her family’s home was where the bookstore now stands across from the entrance to Constance Hall. The cornerstone was laid the same year she was born.

“I like to say I was born at Bradley,” she said. “Going there was a given. My father would say, ‘Why would you want to go anywhere else?’”

Max was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Ardith was a Chi Omega. Their first meeting was at an exchange at the Sig Ep house which ended with them watching a lunar eclipse from the front lawn. Later, members of both groups serenaded them at the Chi-O house after they were pinned. From that beginning sprang a legacy that saw their three children and four of their nine grandchildren walk in their footsteps on the Hilltop.

“I didn’t feel confident around the girls in the big school in the big city, but then I met this Chi Omega,” Max remarked, adding his high school had a total of 96 students when he graduated. “She was the best thing that happened to me at Bradley.”

Their time as students gave the Wesslers a close-up view of an energizing era in Bradley’s history. They watched the groundbreaking for a new library and the construction of Robertson Memorial Field House.

ABOVE: Max Wessler ’52 and Ardith Mehrings Wessler ’52 stand next to Constance Hall, located across from where Ardith’s childhood home stood. More than 60 years ago, they didn’t expect to create a legacy that included children, grandchildren and other family members.
WELCOME RETURN

After earning his master’s degree at the University of Southern California and serving in the Air Force, Max returned to his alma mater in 1956 to teach mechanical engineering at the request of Russell Gibbs, founding dean of the College of Engineering. He would go on to earn his doctorate at Purdue University.

The Wesslers, with young son Kirk Wessler ‘77 in tow, moved into a house on Glenwood Avenue behind Bradley Hall. From the sunroom at the front of that house, they watched the Bradley Hall fire on January 12, 1963.

The blaze, which gutted the historic campus structure, started in the rear of the building across the street from the Wessler home. Max remembers hearing the initial reports from the announcers covering the Bradley basketball game at Wichita State University. “The next morning, we took the car out and drove over several inches of ice to church,” he recalled. “There were still fire trucks and people around.”

The Bradley heart was evident in the aftermath of the fire, Max said. “There was a scramble to find space on and off campus for classes, and professors were squeezed into one- and two-person offices in our building and across campus during the rebuilding process. I don’t think anyone complained. We were family.”

Ardith recalled the close-knit nature of the Bradley community, with many faculty living near campus. Among the people she and Max cited as friends, co-workers and neighbors who exemplified the Bradley “heart” were well-known campus figures, including Charles Orsborn ‘39 MS ‘51, Ruth Jass ‘48 MS ‘61, Ken Goldin ‘64 MA ‘72 and the late Orville Nothdurft ‘35 and Dr. Martin Abegg ‘47 HON ‘93. “We were immersed in the Bradley community,” she said.

“Happily so.”

The University bought the Glenwood house and razed it to build Morgan Hall in 1967. The Wesslers, in turn, moved to 923 N. Maplewood across from the Field House. Fans of Bradley basketball since their student days, the Wesslers enjoyed the proximity to the center of the University’s sports universe. “Robertson Memorial Field House played a very significant part in our lives and the lives of our kids,” Max said. “We could wait until we heard ‘The Star-Spangled Banner’ and then head over to the game.”

Forty years later, the Maplewood house was sold to the University and became part of the site of the Main Street parking deck.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Max’s brother, Robert Wessler ‘61, retired after a career as a music professor in the University of Wisconsin system. Ardith’s brother, Willis Mehrings, attended Bradley. The family legacy also includes son Peter Wessler ‘80 and daughter Tammy Wessler Eggebrecht ‘83. With excellent high school records, Max and Ardith’s children could have attended other schools, but after visiting campuses away from home, a variety of factors — the welcoming nature of the faculty, familiarity with the institution or the strength of their majors — drew all three to continue the tradition.

Just as his parents met on the Hilltop, Kirk met his wife, Mary Fran Pattara Wessler ‘78, while both were students. Now, three of their five sons, including Luke Wessler ‘05, have attended Bradley, as have three daughters-in-law. Peter, who spent 15 years as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Music, and his wife, Carol, a longtime employee in the College of Education and Health Sciences, contributed son Daniel Wessler ‘08 to the legacy, along with a daughter-in-law.

Ardith said, “Hopefully, some of the great-grandchildren can come to Bradley.”

Since University connections encompass generations, Bradley comes up often in family conversations. “Everyone has an appreciation for and is interested in Bradley,” Max noted.

With a 41-year teaching career at the University plus work with a number of campus organizations, such as his 25 years as one of several faculty advisers to the school’s chapter of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, Max often sees students from decades past. “We meet them all over and in the most unlikely places,” he said. “Usually, I can look at them and recall them. Often, I can remember something about them. They are my family.”

Through the years, the Bradley heart has been a valuable constant for the Wesslers, and they see that continuing. “The physical change to the school is tremendous,” Max remarked. “Obviously, we have been blessed with people who cared. We’re proud of Bradley; it’s an outstanding institution.”
Embraced by a Welcoming Community

When reflecting on her favorite college memory, Lorelei Brandariz ’83 simply stated, “Everything is a memory. It’s like when I decided my daughter had to go there because of the memories. Returning to Bradley with her, I saw how it had grown, but you could see and feel the same campus; it was beautiful.” Fortunately, Gabriela Martín-Brandariz ’09 fell in love with the Hilltop, too — after her first visit.

“Mom always wanted me to go to Bradley, but I thought it was in the middle of nowhere and that I wanted to go to a big school. When the time came, I applied to everywhere I wanted to go, and I applied to Bradley just to please her,” Gabriela admitted.

“When Gabriela started looking at colleges, Bradley was my first choice, but she said she had other schools in mind,” Lorelei acknowledged. “She picked four colleges for her visits, and the last one was Bradley.”

It was during that trip that Gabriela realized her mother was right. “When I visited Bradley, it just felt like home,” Gabriela recalled. “The people were great. Everyone was so nice, the campus was so pretty with flowers everywhere, and I loved the school’s size.

I always thought I wanted to go to a big college, but when I toured one I was considering, I immediately knew that wasn’t for me.”

Unlike many legacy students who grow up familiar with their family university, Gabriela lived more than 2,000 miles away in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Having been encouraged to work hard in school and earn a quality education by her own mother, Lorelei shared the same advice with Gabriela: “Colleges are expensive, so you need good grades for financial aid.”

Born in Anchorage, Alaska, Lorelei was raised in Puerto Rico after her parents — an Army major and an Army nurse — retired and returned to the island to be near their families. Knowing she wanted to attend
college on the mainland, Lorelei began working with a Bradley admissions representative at a college fair. In choosing between her two top schools, she finally decided on Bradley. Why? “Because of him. He made the difference,” she explained. As a result, she wanted to help other people have the same positive experience, so she signed up as an admissions aide after arriving on campus.

While the position helped financially by paying half her tuition, it also established a second Brandariz legacy at the University. As a Bradley Student Admissions Representative (STAR), Gabriela literally followed in her mother’s footsteps by giving campus tours, assisting with visit day programs and meeting with prospective students and their families. However, they didn’t do everything the same.

“One thing I did different than Mom was join a sorority,” Gabriela noted, adding she was a Sigma Kappa. “The whole rush experience was amazing, intriguing and a bit stressful because you were choosing where you were going to spend much of your time during school.”

While discussing what it was like returning to campus with Gabriela, Lorelei fondly remembered Dr. Alan Galsky, her biology professor. He had helped her tremendously when she was having trouble understanding him in class, and she was pleased to know he was still there for her daughter. “When I moved Gabriela to Bradley, he was there to meet all the new students,” she said of the then-associate provost for student affairs. “I was glad to see him again and that he was a provost because, looking back now, I knew he had passion for his work — a passion I admire in people.”

In the end, both women agree the entire Bradley Experience comes down to the welcoming Bradley community. Lorelei summed it up: “I wasn’t a number. I was a person, and I was treated with respect. Gabriela told me all the time she felt the same way, like the University extended open arms to her.”

LEFT: Lorelei (right) and her husband, Rene Gonzalez, co-own Target Marketing & Human Resources Solution, where she also serves as vice president: “I love my job because I help other people succeed and improve the quality of their lives, which I believe was the legacy Bradley left in me.” Gabriela (left) — who married Christian Alcala on August 31, 2013 — is a regional brand manager for Colgate-Palmolive, overseeing the toothpaste, toothbrush and mouthwash portfolios.
Exploration Program Launches Legacy

As Jeff Hartigan ’87 embarked on his college search, he was leaning toward majoring in engineering but wasn’t certain. In researching engineering schools, he discovered Bradley’s Academic Exploration Program (AEP), which helps students identify academic interests, skills and career options that align with their values and aspirations.

“AEP appealed to me. I think that, and a combination of a very strong engineering program, a much smaller class size and a more practical curriculum were really what did it for me,” he explained. And, when it was time for his daughter, Mallory Hartigan ’14, to choose a college, he had a feeling Bradley would be the one for her, too.

“I don’t think there was ever a conscious, ‘I want her to follow in my footsteps,’” Jeff noted. “As I told both my children when we were visiting colleges, ‘There’s just going to be some place that feels right.’”

After taking Mallory to see several different schools, their final stop was the Hilltop. “You could see about midway through the visit she was starting to move a little closer to the tour guide and becoming more engaged and interested,” he recalled, adding the decision to attend his alma mater to major in journalism was ultimately hers.

While Mallory grew up hearing University tales from her father and extended family members — aunts Laura Langlotz Anderson ’81 and Susan Langlotz Peterson ’82, uncle Paul H. Anderson ’81, and cousins Robin Valenzo Dillon ’05 and the late Edward Dillon II ’02 — the idea of continuing that legacy wasn’t the determining factor. “I really wanted a smaller, good school that wasn’t too far from home,” she said.

Both Hartigans were involved in Greek life on campus — Jeff was Sigma Nu, and Mallory was Gamma Phi Beta — which led to a bit of teasing. “Delta Upsilon was our major rival, so my classmates made it very clear how much shame Mallory would bring on the family if she ever brought home a DU,” Jeff joked. He also pointed out that both their academic experiences were quite similar, acknowledging the beneficial relationships with their professors.

“Dr. Olatunji Dare [professor of journalism] had a huge impact on the way I think. I took Global Media Systems with him my final semester and learned a great deal on how international media differs from ours,” Mallory remarked. She also mentioned the “great influence” of Dr. Sara Netzley, associate professor of journalism and associate chair of the communication department, on her writing style and the encouragement of Dr. Melvy Portocarrero, associate professor of Spanish, who helped “make Spanish fun again.”

Jeff credits Dr. Joseph Emanuel, professor emeritus of industrial and manufacturing engineering and technology, for guiding him toward industrial engineering and his eventual career with Accenture LLP, formerly Arthur Andersen Management Information Consulting. “He was very keen on introducing IEs to what would be considered a non-traditional IE career path in consulting. I think I initially found out about Andersen through his recommendation.”

The two Hartigans also have very different college-era memories of the house on University Street where Mallory lived for three years, a situation she described simply and succinctly: “Dad apparently dated a Gamma Phi who lived in my off-campus house.”
When Jim and Geri were asked what it felt like to watch Jamie receive her Bradley degree at the 2013 spring Commencement ceremony, they looked at the moment from a legacy viewpoint.

“I was very happy for Jamie,” Jim said with a laugh. “I knew she’d enjoy Bradley, and it was an absolutely positive experience for her.”

Geri added, “I lived and breathed Bradley. My heart was broken when Jamie told us she was not going to Bradley because we had and she wanted to be her own person. I think her experience from a weeklong interactive media program at Bradley the summer between her junior and senior year tipped the scales for Jamie, and she loved Bradley.”

The Condons were proud of how well-prepared Jamie was for her career as she worked toward her goal “to see the world.” She participated in the Disney College program in Florida and also interned with Marriott. Now, Jamie travels North America as an event coordinator for Maui Jim, a manufacturer of sunglasses headquartered in Peoria, Illinois. A member of the first class to complete a degree in Hospitality Leadership, she minored in interactive media and marketing.

A native of McHenry, Illinois, Jim remembered choosing Bradley due to its solid engineering reputation and its distance from home. Recalling the late Dr. John McNabb, professor emeritus of civil engineering, and the late Dr. James Seckler, also a professor of civil engineering, as “definitely great professors,” he said his Bradley education prepared him well, brought out the best in him and enabled him to find his first job working for Sargent and Lundy in Chicago. In 1996, Jim earned his MBA from The Keller Graduate School. As president/owner of J. Condon and Associates in his hometown, he acknowledged he’s a risk taker and could “tolerate risk when I eventually started my own company.”

Geri majored in political science and credits the Office of Admissions’ marketing materials for enticing her to visit campus. “Dr. Bill Hall [professor emeritus of political science] is the reason I chose Bradley,” the New Lenox native said. “I was so impressed with him, and he ended up being my adviser. My initial plan was to earn a political science degree and attend law school.” Instead, she first served on the Illinois House Republican staff and then the Senate Republican staff in Springfield.

Earning her master’s degree in family and child studies at Northern Illinois University, Geri is a licensed professional clinical counselor with her own practice in Ringwood, Illinois. Additionally, she has continued to utilize her political science degree and leadership skills honed at Bradley as an alderman on the McHenry City Council for the past 12 years, where she is up for re-election next May.

Although the couple knew each other as freshmen in Heitz Hall, they never dated until finals week their senior year. New careers then sent them on their separate ways. Two years later at Homecoming, however, they reconnected and eventually married in 1988 and are now the parents of three children.
From Bradley to the World

From Peoria to Paris to the Pentagon and more, Bradley graduates continue to find innovative ways to answer some of their organizations’ most compelling challenges.
George Eid ’94, along with his brothers, Sam and Bob, sat waiting for the first customer to arrive at their newly remodeled restaurant, One World, located across the street from Bradley’s campus. Sam was reading a book about philosophy, Bob was noodling around the cash register, and George, a junior at Bradley, was working on an assignment for his make-up class as a major in theatre.

“We had not advertised the restaurant’s opening and were on the edge of our seats with no customers during the first hour of business,” Eid said. “Finally, a lady walked through the door and ordered the first cappuccino. By 1 a.m., the restaurant was packed, and we ran out of both coffee and food.”

The original coffee shop had been struggling to remain open. Eid and his friends often frequented the shop, and the owner knew of Eid’s interest in maintaining a dining venue close to campus for students and the neighborhood. He was fascinated by the original décor — round windows, a stainless steel door and a cool black-and-white checkerboard tile floor of what had once been Kane’s Drugs with a soda fountain and a dentist office upstairs. When the owner was ready to sell, Eid contacted his brothers immediately, and they purchased the shop together with the help of a friend.

Eid found a way to incorporate his love of the theatre into the life of One World. Two apartments above the restaurant were transformed into a theatrical performance space, and along with other theatre students from Bradley, Eid staged six plays per year including one original script and an ongoing late-night improvisational show every Friday and Saturday.

At first disappointed he was unable to attend Carnegie Mellon University with the offer of a partial scholarship, he chose Bradley where he received a full scholarship from the forensics program and theatre department. “I would not give up my experience at Bradley for anything — the theatre department was a close-knit family, and the faculty created a special environment.” Among the special people who made Bradley a special place to Eid are Dr. Jeff Huberman, dean of the Slane College of Communications and Fine Arts and former professor of theatre; Molly Sloter, MM ’81, staff

Improvising His Way to the Top

It’s All One World

BY SUSAN ANDREWS
“Someone creates a new open-source product, and the next continues to build upon that product with a new idea. You become an active participant in moving the industry forward.”

— George Eid ’94

accompanist in the music department; Jim Langley, former professor of stage craft; and Dr. James Ludwig, associate dean emeritus of the Slane College of Communications and Fine Arts, associate professor emeritus of theatre arts and former head of the theatre department.

ON THE MOVE

In 1997, Eid closed the theatre, handed over ownership of One World to his brothers and moved to New York City to pursue his career in acting, writing and directing for the stage. Disenchanted with the state of theatre in New York, he quickly turned to film, establishing Wildfist Motion Pictures that produced feature-length films including the award-winning Area K: A Political Fishing Documentary set in the Gaza Strip.

In the late ‘90s — as a way to fund his passion for films — he worked as a creative director for interactive agencies such as MarchFirst and Agency.com. Realizing his passion was shifting to a new “stage,” he said goodbye to Wildfist and, in 2003, started AREA 17, an interactive agency with offices in New York City and Paris. He noted the name AREA 17 refers to the visual cortex of the mind.

AREA 17 builds modern interactive systems and creates platforms for its clients, including Facebook, Google, Apple, Pinterest, ESPN, Billboard, SPIN and Style.com. In 2008, Eid started an incubator within the company to launch its own products such as Krrb.com, a hyperlocal classifieds website. The staff of AREA 17 is evenly split between design, engineering and strategic planning.

Eid likens interactive work to improvisation, calling it “the biggest improv game in the world.” This is the world Eid continues to inhabit at the helm of AREA 17. “Someone creates a new open-source product, and the next continues to build upon that product with a new idea,” he said. “You become an active participant in moving the industry forward.”

Eid and his team did just that when creating the digital platform Quartz for The Atlantic. Built primarily for handheld devices and for business people in the new global economy, the user experience changed how editorial content is consumed online and has influenced the redesign of many major websites.

In metaphorical terms, Eid explained that digital space is a marketplace while traditional space is a cathedral. “A cathedral takes hundreds of years to build, and society spends the rest of eternity maintaining it,” he said, “whereas a marketplace adapts to the changes in the market.” He draws an analysis between society and digital products, as both are organic and most often fickle, adding, “Today, if you try to build a cathedral in a digital space, by the time it is finished, it is no longer relevant. Moreover, its solid foundation will crack in this ever-shifting landscape.”

If he were giving advice to Bradley students interested in his field, Eid would suggest building a unique product and launching early and often. “Don’t put all your eggs in a basket; iterate it, drop it and move on — interactive space is about action, and in an interactive space, it is the sum of all actions that creates great brands,” he said.

Eid splits his time between his New York and Paris offices but calls the latter his home with his wife, Dominique, and their daughter, Sibylle.

BELOW: George Eid ’94 (left), and his brothers, Bob (pictured) and Sam, created a vibrant eatery on Main Street, across from the Bradley campus, in 1993. George, at left in inset photo with David N. Young ’96, appears as the Duke of Buckingham in Bradley’s 1994 production of Richard III.
Launching a Federal Career

BY KAREN CROWLEY METZINGER, MA ’97

Dr. Ron Jost ’70 chuckled heartily when speaking about his unexpected career move from Motorola to the federal government. Following his 2001 retirement as a corporate vice president of Motorola, he said his college sweetheart and wife, Susie Kelley Jost ’69, encouraged him to find a new occupation; however, Jost had to secure employment approval. He looked into teaching at the college level and also visited the federal government website where he applied for various positions resulting in multiple job offers.

“I came into this federal position at my retirement level,” Jost explained. “I have a good position — the highest possible without being politically appointed. They were familiar with me because I had done military work at Motorola and E-Systems.”

As Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Communications, Command and Control (C3) and Cyber, Jost is responsible for providing portfolio management, technical and programmatic evaluation and functional oversight. His office oversees Department of Defense C3 and Cyber systems for the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition. It also provides the leadership for functional and acquisition oversight of all critical war-fighting communications, command and control, and cyberspace capabilities in the Department of Defense. The increasing emphasis on cyber is requiring application of significant C3CB technical resources to insure the investments needed to respond to different cyber actions.

“My position is not too far off my electrical engineering background, but I never thought I'd be in the federal government doing it,” Jost remarked. “I am actually in a technical position: acquisition and investment of all cyber and business systems with Department C3. We basically have all communications, software programs and cyber programs in the Department of Defense. I don’t do tanks or planes; I do all electronics and software needed to enable these platforms, so in that respect, it’s engineering.”

PROBLEM SOLVING AT THE PENTAGON

Jost recalled leading a group at the Pentagon with “all kinds of military people in it” for nine years. He said it was quite an unusual experience because the lowest rank was a colonel. “I never thought I’d have 23 colonels reporting to me — Never! I do get tired of being called ‘Sir,’ especially by generals and fellow civilians. It’s the strangest feeling in the world,” he said with a laugh.

On a more serious note, his service with the federal government has exposed him to some dangerous circumstances. Three weeks after the United States entered Iraq in 2003, he was in Baghdad; he said military bases were relatively safe, aircraft were likewise relatively safe, but generally, Iraq was not safe for our military forces. Jost has traveled all over the world in trains, planes, ships, helicopters and submarines in environments he had never envisioned in his lifetime.

LIVING IN ARIZONA

Raised in Chicago, Jost relocated to Arizona with Motorola in 1970, where he and Susie, a West Bluff Peorian who majored in math and Spanish, completed
their master's degrees in the '70s at Arizona State University — she in math and physics and he in electrical engineering. Susie proceeded to teach junior high and high school math until 1976 but continued to teach college classes part-time.

A lifelong learner, Jost shared an interesting fact concerning his higher education: He had been continuously enrolled in school since entering Bradley in 1965 until the time he earned his Ph.D. in 2002. “I didn’t miss a single semester,” he added with pride. “In fact, I graduated with my Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Arizona State during the same two-day ceremony my daughter and son graduated. It was one of my best personal accomplishments. When I was a Bradley engineering student, I never dreamed I would earn a Ph.D.”

Remembering his engineering classes at Bradley brought back thoughts of two professors who were “better than any professors I have ever taken”: Dr. Thomas Stewart ’59, professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering and technology, and the late Dr. William Hammond, MSEE ’60, professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering and technology. “To tell you the truth, I think Bradley gave a really, really good fundamental engineering education,” he shared. “I don’t know how anyone could be better than the new, young professors I had. They were outstanding.”

After 81 round-trip flights in one year from Phoenix to Chicago, Motorola moved the Josts to corporate headquarters in Chicago in 2000. During his 26 years with the company, the project that gave him the greatest satisfaction in his career was launching 72 IRIDIUM satellites that provide global mobile telecommunications services. Motorola had never launched a satellite, and Jost, as chief engineer and systems manager for the program, was responsible for the execution of the project — everything associated with the satellite — payload, ground stations design, as well as the flight operations. “My people built, launched and operated the systems,” Jost said. “Even people here at the Department of Defense acknowledged the launch as a big deal. I can actually say I have launched more satellites than anyone else in the Pentagon, by far. We worked on the project from 1994 to early 1998. The IRIDIUM satellites were extremely complicated for their day and even by today’s Pentagon standards.”

Jost also noted, “When the system launched, it was more advanced than any previous communications satellite, and the successful launching was important to me. A multiple launch and satellite development had never been done before or since.”

“We basically have all communications, software programs and cyber programs in the Department of Defense. I don’t do tanks or planes; I do all electronics and software needed to enable these platforms, so in that respect, it’s engineering.”

— Dr. Ron Jost ’70
Originally intending to simply hone her counseling skills through Bradley’s graduate program in community and agency counseling (now clinical mental health counseling), Kathy Corso, MA ’98 really was laying the groundwork for her life’s true passion — living better through clean eating.

“I was doing a lot of patient and family counseling through my job with the Alzheimer’s Association, and I wanted more background for it. Even though I had my undergraduate degree in social work from the University of Oklahoma, I felt I could use additional skills,” she recalled.

While that choice had nothing to do with food, a personal experience with breast cancer did. It was then — dealing with treatments, learning yoga and working with a nutritionist — that she first began to understand the concept of mind, body and spirit. “In other words, the relationship between stress and healthy eating and how our bodies handle it,” she explained. Then, in 2000, she helped found and became the first executive director...
for the Cancer Center for Healthy Living (CCHL) in Peoria, Illinois.

Established to support cancer patients and their caregivers, CCHL not only had a nutritionist and counselors on staff but also helped promote the spread of Peoria’s early yoga movement. In addition, its workers created a wide variety of health-related programming and resources, including classes, workshops, books, videos and audiotapes. Earlier this year, CCHL joined with the Hult Health Education Center to form the Hult Center for Healthy Living, which combines CCHL programs with additional healthy living programs.

“The center’s goal is to help people going through the cancer experience with both their emotional and nutritional needs,” Corso remarked. “The whole idea is that you need to be physically, emotionally and spiritually well to fend off all life’s stressors, not necessarily just cancer but all stressors of modern life.”

During her time at CCHL, Corso’s two daughters visited Italy for four months, working on five organic farms and learning the value of local food production. “After my girls’ trip to Italy and my five years of working with cancer patients, we decided it would be great to be proactive, so the whole issue of healthy eating became the issue of being proactive about your health,” she said. That is when the three women decided to lease some land to grow food for themselves and to sell at farmer’s markets.

PROMOTING CLEAN EATING

Focused on the motto “Chi mangia bene, vive bene” (or “Who eats well lives well), Crow Creek Farm was the family’s first venture into the world of agriculture. After moving from a large field near Washburn, Illinois, to a more manageable urban garden site in Peoria, they eventually expanded their product line to meet the demands of their busy customers by adding handmade pastas, pestos and salsas to their assortment of produce.

Although the women sustained Crow Creek Farm for only a few years, Corso’s dedication to local food production remained, and she helped start and still assists with the Peoria Heights Farmer’s Market (now the Junction City Farmer’s Market). “I volunteer my time in any way to promote people buying local, using local and knowing what local food production is about,” she said.

That commitment led to her being recruited to help develop “Cook Well … Eat Well … Live Well” for UnityPoint Health – Methodist this past year. The four-part workshop series brings doctors into the kitchen for culinary arts training while teaching them about best practices in nutrition science, making them more aware of the direct connection between diet and overall wellness.

“I pulled together a team of registered dietitians and chefs who taught physicians culinary skills at the Illinois Central College Culinary Arts Institute. At each session, the doctors learned a skill, prepared a meal and heard from a keynote speaker,” Corso noted, adding the speakers covered the topics of food as medicine, reversing coronary heart disease, lifestyle medicine and childhood obesity.

Admitting she never imagined her degree would result in some of the positions she’s held, Corso emphasized it all is related: “I think these innovative-practice jobs have come from what I learned in counseling from the behavioral health perspective. It gave me a better understanding of human behavior and motivation. … It doesn’t matter which decision you’re talking about: It’s all about internally understanding what motivates and helps us as individuals make choices that are in our best interest.”

A member of Chi Sigma Iota, the counseling honorary society, Corso has twice been recognized by Bradley’s Department of Leadership in Education, Human Services and Counseling (formerly Educational Leadership and Human Development). In 2002, she received the department’s Award in Innovative Practices for her work at the Cancer Center for Healthy Living, and in 2014, she was given its Alumni Recognition Award for the “Cook Well” program.

“I’ve become a problem solver rather than looking for an ordinary job,” she acknowledged of her varied resume. “Each of the situations identifies what I call needs in the community that aren’t being met by other programs or agencies.”
David Brant ‘74 offered succinct advice to Bradley psychology students when he was invited to campus in 2008 to receive the LAS Distinguished Alumnus award: “Expect the unexpected, and don’t rule out anything.”

Little did he know those words would continue to be his mantra even after his retirement from an illustrious, nearly 30-year career with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), headquartered in Virginia. Not one to rule out anything, following his position as director of NCIS, he “quite unexpectedly” has worked the last 8 ½ years with two different accounting firms inside the Washington D.C., beltway.

Interestingly, a lifelong love for athletics set him on a path to coaching — or so he thought. Admitting he was never good enough to play basketball at Bradley, he certainly remembered being inspired by top-notch players such as Chet “The Jet” Walker ’62 and others while growing up in Georgetown, Illinois. When researching colleges, he focused on the following criteria: a school smaller than the state universities his friends planned to attend, a good basketball team to follow, intramural sports and a decent distance from home. He decided to make a summer visit and “loved the atmosphere; Bradley just felt good,” he recalled. “I was realistically undecided in my major when I arrived on campus. Surprisingly, my Harper Hall roommate, [the late] Del Jo ’75, was from Hawaii, and Bradley was the first place he had ever been in the continental U.S. It’s those unique, personal experiences — the exposure to diverse types of people with different backgrounds — that helped me greatly and made Bradley a good baseline for going the direction I went.”

Brant’s mother, an educator, encouraged him as a high school senior to take an aptitude test to determine what career path might be best for him. He remembered hearing that if coaching didn’t work out, he should consider the softer sciences such as psychology.

“I honestly think that test was probably the biggest influencer, and when I started taking psychology classes at Bradley, it was all very positive. Look what happened,” he added with enthusiasm.

Ultimately, two classes during his senior year with Dr. Bernard Zant, assistant professor of sociology, took him in an unexpected direction: Zant’s classes in criminology, and criminal and deviant behavior fueled Brant’s passion to pursue a master’s degree in criminal justice at Indiana State University. “I needed to learn why people do what they do,” Brant remarked. “Professor Zant’s classes were people focused and led me toward a different way of thinking; he was a motivating and thought-provoking guy.”

ANCHORING NCIS

After earning his master’s degree at age 24, Brant became a uniformed police officer in Miami where he was “a bit of an anomaly.” He learned how to impact and influence people in an active role. A year later, he pursued a federal position by applying to the FBI, Secret Service, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), NCIS and others. Although he had never heard of NCIS, one of his graduate school advisers recommended he contact the agency. Brant accepted an offer from NCIS, became an agent in 1977 and his investigative career took off from Norfolk, Virginia.

“I was on an unexpected, unplanned career path, and the organization and its mission were phenomenal,” he noted. “I accomplished everything I had wanted to do — traveled the world, experienced all types of people, led people. It was an honor, and I loved my career at NCIS.” From 1997 to 2005, while leading the global law enforcement organization that focuses on
counterterrorism and counterintelligence operations with a tremendous impact on the country. Brant said the opportunity to lead a premier, “one-of-a-kind” agency was uniquely rewarding and humbling; he never could have planned the path he traveled to achieve such a position. He greatly appreciated the opportunity to work with senior government policy and decision makers, as well as being able to serve in a personally rewarding way.

In fact, Brant was the director of NCIS at the time of the attack on the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000. “Being responsible for the agency’s response and contributing to the identification and successful prosecution of those responsible was a most significant event in my career. In general, leading an agency’s ‘transformation’ across very diverse mission areas was uniquely challenging and gratifying,” he remarked.

At the head of the agency when the TV program NCIS debuted, Brant spent time with the executive producer and enjoyed a speaking role with actor Mark Harmon in the November 2005 episode “Frame Up.” Brant continues to be a member of the Screen Actors Guild.

“That entirely unexpected career track, quite frankly, I attribute to Bradley because that’s where I became interested in what motivates people,” he observed. “I wasn’t a ‘science guy,’ but I was inquisitive. At Bradley, I had the opportunity to grow, interact, make many friends and shape a certain direction in my life. I took a lot of that from the psychology program, especially the personal interaction with my professors.”

PROBLEM SOLVING AT DELOITTE AND BDO

Once he retired from the federal government, Brant realized he had been so immersed in NCIS that he had never projected or planned his next step. Soon, his career path led him from the role of decision maker to adviser. He worked for Deloitte’s Washington D.C., office where he helped build a federal government practice and was the lead for the Department of Justice account, enabling him to stay connected with the agencies and intelligence community he had developed relationships with through the years. “I was able to help them solve some of their toughest problems from an outsider’s perspective as one who also had experience in the field they were focused on,” he noted. “Deloitte was another rewarding experience.”

When he left Bradley in 1974, Brant acknowledged he never could have imagined that he would have yet another uncommon career opportunity in 2011 when he was recruited by BDO, the fifth-largest accounting firm in the world that has been in business for 105 years.

Brant was charged with building a public sector-focused practice — including accounting, auditing and consulting — to deliver services to state, local and federal markets. “I am very much a Bradley business school person now,” he said with a laugh. “I transitioned from liberal arts to hard-core business — profit and loss statements, margins, deliverables, artifacts, returns on investment — my focus is on the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security and state and local law enforcement. I am still helping people and helping solve problems.”

Always embracing an action-oriented philosophy about life, Brant believes that having an appreciation for listening to others has driven his unexpected career path. “Listening was one of my attributes as the head of an agency and in the positions I have been in since,” he said. “I have always valued input from others to help me shape a particular direction I would go or a particular decision I would make. I attribute some of that to my time at Bradley because of the size of my classes, the informality and the personal attention.”

Brant’s NCIS legacy continues as his son, Andrew, has followed in his footsteps as an NCIS special agent assigned in Bahrain. His wife, Merri Jo, is a retired teacher, and his daughter, Emily, is an attorney at the Patent and Trademark Office.
Think Tank Problem Solver

BY KAREN CROWLEY METZINGER, MA '97

Fluent in Arabic and English, with a working knowledge of French, Khalid Al-Naif '81 is a business executive specializing in the design, development and implementation of international projects and programs. With more than 25 years of business development in the private and public sectors at JPMorgan Chase, Arab Bank, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and AECOM International Consulting, his highly successful career turned to the nonprofit arena in 2007, when he joined the leadership team at the University of Michigan’s William Davidson Institute. The independent consulting, research and educational think tank develops and disseminates expertise on issues affecting the private sector, governments in transition and emerging market economies. Al-Naif is focused on solving problems worldwide from his base in Ann Arbor.

“Given the choice between careers in private, nonprofit and public sectors, qualified candidates generally save nonprofit as a last option because it is considered low paying and unreliable,” observed the native of Iraq, who holds a degree in economics from the Foster College of Business. Although he acknowledged, “You don’t make much money in international development,” the Davidson Institute made him an offer he could not refuse, attracting him “like a magnet” by giving him the latitude to build a consulting practice around his area of expertise and the opportunity to bring his field team to campus to achieve their objectives.

ENHANCING THE INSTITUTE’S OUTREACH

Under Al-Naif’s leadership, the Institute’s development projects portfolio has grown more than 500 percent with more than 40 projects successfully completed or actively being implemented in more than 30 countries. “Even as we speak,” he noted, “I am monitoring teams on 18 active projects, operating in 17 countries and cutting across 15 different technical sectors. We have people on the ground in almost every corner of the globe making major development strides — against all odds. For example, we have an ongoing contract with the World Bank to upgrade the University of Liberia accounting department to meet international education standards. The department was devastated by the country’s two civil wars, and as a result, graduates are far below international standards and have trouble finding employment. When the Centers for Disease Control urged all U.S. citizens to avoid non-essential travel to Liberia last July because of the Ebola virus outbreak, the World Bank offered us a way out of our contractual commitments based on a loophole clause. We said, ‘No,’ because our contribution was critical for the future growth of the Liberian economy. Our work there has continued uninterrupted.”

Al-Naif described a similar situation in Kiev, Ukraine, last year, where the Institute is reforming the country’s legal and institutional framework, serving as a bridge between private-sector and government interests, building municipal capacity and implementing pilot public-private projects in selected cities. “When the call came in the middle of the night to evacuate Kiev because of civil unrest, our team opted to stay and continues to

“We have people on the ground in almost every corner of the globe making major development strides — against all odds.”

— Khalid Al-Naif ’81
be there today,” Al-Naif commented. “I can’t speak for the people of Liberia or Ukraine, but I expect we have gained both the trust and respect of our counterparts there more so than the numerous foreign corporations and businesses that packed their bags and abandoned them at the first sign of trouble and when they needed help the most.”

BUILDING A PROUD LEGACY

Despite his worldwide work and travels, Al-Naif was quick to profess that Bradley University gave him the best years of his life, emphasizing, “Nothing comes close!” He recalled the late Dr. Kalman Goldberg, professor emeritus of economics and his academic adviser and mentor, “had a major impact on my professional direction and thinking.” He added, “I wouldn’t be doing justice to the legacy of Bradley University without mentioning Dr. James Erickson ’61 MA ’66 [then-dean of men] who stood by us academically, socially and even financially through graduation and beyond. Dr. Erickson was like a second parent, and I will be forever indebted.”

Al-Naif followed two older brothers to Bradley: Duraid Al-Naif ’79 is an investor in medical clinics and real estate in Chesapeake, Virginia. Jamal Al-Naif ’80 is a managing partner at a major investment bank and lives in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. “My youngest brother, Ali, attended Bradley for two years. He is a public relations executive in Amman, Jordan. Now, my son, Sebastian Al-Naif ’17, is majoring in construction management and also joined my fraternity, Sigma Nu.”

FUNDING AND NETWORKING

In addition to his Bradley education, Al-Naif studied macroeconomic policy and management at Harvard University in 2002. He said his year there, funded by USAID, was priceless during the phase of his career that followed when he managed a $1.5 billion trade and investment sector reform program for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and served as the CEO of Iraq Private Sector Growth and Employment Generation (IZDIHAR), a $154 million initiative to assist the government. “Both programs were funded by USAID,” he added.

With a comprehensive understanding of the power of funding, Al-Naif uses his earnings from the Institute to gift learning equipment, reading materials and teacher manuals to the first center in the Middle East and North Africa for children with autism, established by his sister. He adheres to the philosophy that the tallest man on Earth is one who is bending down to help a child in need.

Often contacted through LinkedIn by Bradley students and alumni for career advice in international development, he said he typically recommends they learn a language, especially the language of their region of interest, and technical skills that offer value. “I tell students and alumni to keep an open mind when looking for opportunities to work abroad,” he said. “I advise them to do the unsexy work. Professionals looking internationally want to travel all over the country, but this is not a vacation. They must be ready, truly open and able to do the work that is needed. They can’t go and only do the work they think is interesting.”

The recipient of an award for exceptional service in support of the United States Foreign Policy Objectives from former Secretary of State Colin Powell in 2004, Al-Naif said his greatest award comes from God each time he returns from an international assignment “alive, healthy and ready for the next deployment.”
With a Georgia High School Association Class AAA golf championship under her belt, Gracie Henderson ’18 is looking forward to hitting the links for Bradley. “I wanted to go somewhere different for college,” commented the native of Peachtree Corners, Georgia, who has lived in the same house all her life. “That’s a big change for me. When I came for a recruiting trip, I didn’t know what to expect,” she said. In addition to the opportunity to golf at Bradley, Henderson said, “The size is perfect, and it fit me academically.”

Describing herself as outgoing, driven and focused, Henderson said music ranks just behind golf in her world. She uses her musical talents to serve at her church and other institutions. “I want to continue singing for sure,” she added.

Golf, however, is atop her leaderboard. She took up the game in sixth grade but admits to only becoming serious about it in high school. “My dad is a big golfer; that’s why I started.”

After twice placing in the top four at the state championship, Henderson won medalist honors this season on the way to helping her team claim the overall title. Noting her younger sister, Nicole, was a teammate, she said, “It was great for her to be there with me.”

She’s anticipating an active but fulfilled life on the Hilltop. “I’m involved in the Honors Program and athletics at the same time, so I’ll be busy,” explained Henderson. She said her status as the only golf team member from below the Mason-Dixon Line provides a unique perspective of the University and Peoria.

The biology major hopes to become a physician assistant. She credits family for her interest in medicine. Her pediatrician grandfather built a large medical practice in Atlanta, and her mother is a nurse, offering Henderson a close-up look at the field.

“Our careers kind of solidified everything,” Henderson said. “Helping others, especially kids, through my profession and changing someone’s life by helping them recover — I can’t see doing anything else.”
Learning the Language of Business

Counting on Kenneth Stevens ’18 to make the most of his first year on campus does not require much of a stretch of the imagination. The recipient of one of 15 Bradley University Fellow scholarships awarded to incoming freshmen, Stevens dove right into service projects his first week on Hilltop. “Our group of Fellows worked on events for the freshman class, helping new students learn how to get around the campus and community,” he explained.

The Fellows program seeks to instill leadership skills and civic responsibility through participation in service learning projects, in leadership development programs and on Fellows committees and student organizations. As a dining room server for the past two years at his local retirement home, Stevens already looks for opportunities to serve. The New York Yankees and Chicago Bulls fan hails from South Elgin, Illinois, from a “family with a love for numbers and mathematics.” Since his favorite class in high school was accounting, Stevens is interested in Bradley’s 3:2 accounting program, an integrated bachelor’s and master’s degree. During his first three years, he will study the traditional undergraduate accounting curriculum. His final two years will involve a combination of undergraduate and graduate classes. “I’d like to be a CPA in a corporate business,” Stevens explained. “I was raised knowing I was going to college because my parents believe it’s the ticket to building my career. It was a mindset my parents always encouraged.”

Stevens qualified for Bradley’s Honors Program and spent time during Freshman Orientation meeting with business and accounting professors whom he found “supportive and interesting as advisers,” saying his visit to campus made him feel that Bradley was like a close-knit family. “The Honors Program meeting was exciting. We were told we’d be learning in a smaller environment and have more opportunities to speak and communicate with others in our classes. I am looking forward to learning to be more communicative and social, and I hope to make a lot of close friends and enjoy the Bradley Experience that I always hear about.”

A former baseball player with hobbies including wake boarding and snowboarding, Stevens plans to find an athletic outlet in the intramural sports program. He said he is aware of only one other student attending the University from South Elgin, noting, “That makes me unique. I come from a different background than many other students; I am giving it my all to be true to myself.”

Welcoming Change

After moving eight times and attending five different schools, Sarah Kuzy ’18 was more than ready for the Hilltop and her latest new beginning. “I’ve met people from all different backgrounds and countries. I think that experience broadens my perspective on other people,” she noted of her open mind and welcoming approach to change.

In 2010, her family relocated from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Waterloo, Belgium, when her father accepted a company transfer. In two years abroad,
Kuzy visited Switzerland, Spain, France, Bulgaria, Germany, England and the Netherlands. She also had the unique opportunity to attend an international high school, exposing her to other cultures.

“Any country you could name, there were people at my school from it,” she said. “Every class was taught in English, but when you went into the hallway, people were speaking all the languages you’ve heard of — and then some.”

Having studied Spanish since second grade, Kuzy is minoring in the language while pursuing an electrical engineering degree. “I’ve always liked computers, video games and anything electronic, so my brother, an electrical engineer, started teaching me how everything worked,” she explained. “I took a physics class with a big electricity and magnetism section that was so interesting I decided that’s what I want to major in.”

She also hopes to integrate a long-term high school project into her college life. The culmination of two years of research, writing and revision, Kuzy’s honors thesis argued that service dogs are the most beneficial form of impairment assistance due to the emotional bond between handler and dog. Highlighted by studies on mobility support, therapy and guide dogs, the nearly 40-page paper reflected both her dedication as a student and her lifelong love of animals.

“I sort of stumbled onto service dogs,” she admitted. “I researched the history and evolution of dogs and wolves to dogs. I found how the dog’s purpose changed from when it was first domesticated to how it’s used in modern times. ... I noticed there were many studies about service dogs, but they weren’t compiled into one argument.”

Now, she may apply that work into a new role as a student trainer for Wags for Mags, a group that helps train future service dogs on campus. Joking it wouldn’t be an issue because her roommate loves dogs, too, Kuzy shared her excitement: “I thought Wags for Mags was really cool when I first heard about it and that it would be a good way to be involved with service dogs again. I definitely plan to seek them out and learn more.”

“I saw a lot on social media about it, and the coach sent us all an email asking us to vote for Kaboom! Because it represents all our teams, Kaboom! is kind of our poster child for athletics, so I wanted to help make sure we did as well as possible,” Versweyveld said of supporting the University’s mascot.

While he is not quite sure who he will share the extra ticket with, he is ready for the challenges and opportunities Bradley offers — both academically and athletically. Saying he specifically sought a Division I school with high academic standards, Versweyveld appreciates that his teammates value their educations: “We want to have really high GPAs, rank in the highest GPA for student-athletes on campus as well as in the MVC and be men and women of character who succeed in our sport.”

As the only cross county runner and track athlete at his high school, the Delavan, Wisconsin, resident mainly trained alone. Now, he’s anticipating all the benefits of being on a team. “I’m actually really looking forward to my teammates smashing me in practice,” Versweyveld admitted. “Just to be able to train with people who are much better than I … hopefully, one day I’ll be at their level.”

A health science major, Versweyveld has yet to settle on a career; however, he does stress it will involve helping people. “I am so passionate about training and how nutrition and other factors work together, but I haven’t quite decided if I want to pursue coaching or physical therapy. I’ll see how my classes go before deciding,” he explained.
In the meantime, he is ready to make the most of his four years on the Hilltop. Planning to join Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ), Versweyveld intends to be involved on campus and meet many fellow students. “I know so often the people you meet in college are very good friends for a long time, and that was a big reason for choosing Bradley — because everyone was so welcoming and friendly here,” he said. “I know I’ll have lifelong friends when I leave.”

**Speaking of Bradley**

After participating in the Summer Forensics Institute at Bradley as both a competitor and coach, Sarah Brashear ’18 is ready to speak out.

“That’s what originally drew me here,” she said of the annual two-week camp. “I knew Bradley was where I belonged. I’m not afraid to talk to anyone and put myself out there. Plus, being from out of state, I automatically have something to talk to people about.”

The Omaha, Nebraska, resident is already familiar with competing at the national level while attending Marian High School. She won humorous interpretation at the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions and also placed in that category at the National Forensic League tournament and in oral interpretation at the National Catholic Forensic League event. While competing at the George Armstrong Heart of Illinois Individual Events Tournament on campus in December, she won the top prize, a $15,000 scholarship, in the Janssen Oratorical Contest, established by Peoria lawyer and former speech team member Jay Janssen ’59.

She was called on as a speaker throughout high school, serving on the school’s recruitment team, as retreat leader and newspaper editor, and in student government. “I was always up and talking in front of people,” Brashear recalled. “A background in public speaking is something you can use in any situation.”

While planning to tackle the interpretation events for Bradley’s speech team, Brashear, a one-time basketball player, wants to turn her competitive nature towards intramurals, as well. “I’m usually in athletic shorts or a suit,” she remarked about the attire differences between sports and speech.

A public relations major and marketing minor, she described Bradley as “the whole package.” Brashear eagerly looks forward to taking classes in the Women’s Studies program and is excited for this fall’s Big Questions honors seminar with Dr. Robert Fuller.

Caterpillar Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

She views Bradley’s Hollywood Semester as a prime opportunity while anticipating interning in Chicago and possibly trying out for famed improv group The Second City.

Using the same persistence, patience and practice she brings to her forensics pursuits, Brashear taught herself to play the ukulele. She thought the Hawaiian-based instrument was interesting and received one for her 16th birthday. Learning to play through instructional manuals and YouTube videos, she focuses on alternative and indie music because “That’s what I started learning on.”

But, she comes back to forensics as a key element in her life. “I think I have the ability to reach out to people I wouldn’t normally interact with,” Brashear explained, adding, “I don’t think I would be the person I am today without that ability.”

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**Refer a Student to Bradley**

As a graduate or friend of the University, you are in the best position to discuss the Bradley Experience with prospective students. To arrange a tour for a prospective student, visit bradley.edu/CampusVisits. To refer a student online, visit bualum.org/ReferAStudent. Thank you for your support in bringing new Bradley Braves to campus.
Class Notes

Forecasting a Long Career

While he made his career as a weather forecaster, few might have predicted that outcome when Jud Ashmore ’49 was younger.

Ashmore and his wife, Peggy, live in Bandera, Texas, where he was named a Texas Hero this summer by the Frontier Times Museum at the annual National Day of the Cowboy. The honor recognizes individuals “who, through their leadership, creativity, example and hard work, keep the pioneer spirit alive,” according to the museum.

Following his mother’s death when he was 15, Ashmore dropped out of high school in his hometown of Oakford, Illinois, and rode the rails throughout the country. He returned home to finish high school then spent more than two years in the U.S. Navy as a diver during World War II.

After his discharge, he joined many other veterans on Bradley’s campus. “They had some fabulous instructors in those days,” Ashmore said, adding he worked at Caterpillar Inc.’s foundry to help pay for his education. “I took a sociology course with [the late] Dr. Clarence Schroeder. He preached a lot of common sense.”

With his degree in social science and a year of graduate school on the Hilltop, he embarked on a 21-year career in the U.S. Air Force. Rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel, Ashmore spent many years as a weather forecaster at bases in the United States and overseas.

Two days after leaving the service, he was on the air as a television weathercaster in San Antonio.

A professional member of the American Meteorological Society, he also worked at television stations in Indianapolis and San Francisco as well as reported for Texas radio stations. “It was a Golden Era,” he recalled of that time in television.

Although he turned 90 in April, Ashmore continues a full slate of “projects.” He builds and remodels houses, cuts his own firewood, and built and painted a storeroom at his home. “It keeps me off the streets at night,” he joked. “I don’t use that word — retirement.”

— B.G.
Richard Diem '67 was awarded the Irving Morrisett Excellence in Social Science Education Award from the Social Science Education Consortium. He is president of the group and a professor of education and dean of the Honors College at the University of Texas, San Antonio. He has taught in suburban Chicago, at Northern Illinois University, Texas Women's University and in Portugal. The author of four books and numerous articles and papers, Richard earned master’s degrees in history and anthropology from Northwestern University, education at Southern Illinois University and in history at Colorado State University. He lives in Cadiz, Ky.

Ginny Kuebler Roberts '67 owns Business Plans That Owns from Northwestern and anthropology Carbondale and a degree in history at Chicago Baptist University. She and her husband, Ruth Ann, have four children and live in Cary, N.C.

Gary Roberts '70 joined Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, concentrating on sports law. Previously, Gary retired as dean emeritus and Gerald L. Bepko Professor of Law at Indiana University's Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis, where he will continue to teach. An arbitrator/member of the international Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland, he was one of nine arbitrators at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Bradley's Outstanding Young Graduate in 1982, Gary has been a consultant for several sports teams and leagues, testified before Congress and co-authored the leading text on sports law used in U.S. law schools.

Steve Dunn '71 spent four decades in journalism, including 29 years at the Daily Gate City in Keokuk, Iowa, and the Hancock County Journal-Pilot in Carthage, Ill. Keokuk proclaimed January 30 "Steve Dunn Day" to honor him. Steve and his wife, Cindy, have two children and two grandchildren and live in Keokuk.

Michael Conver '68 published the novel Small Forces. A retired educator and school superintendent, he holds master’s and doctoral degrees from Illinois State University and lives in Cadiz, Ky.

1970s

Michael Fineman '70 celebrated 25 years for his public relations and crisis management firm in San Francisco. Fineman PR, which recently opened a new office in the city’s Union Square area, won a Silver Anvil Award from the Public Relations Society of America for its work with Foster Farms.

Phil Hofreiter '71 MA '75 is a college and career counselor with the College Access Program of the AIM Institute at Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Previously, he taught math at Sterling High School. Phil and his wife, Holly, live in Bellevue, Neb.

Barry Goodman '74 was named a Michigan Super Lawyer in personal injury law for the eighth straight year. He is co-founder and partner with Goodman Acker PC. Barry earned his juris doctorate from Stetson University College of Law. He received the Champion of Justice Award from the Michigan Association for Justice and is a former president of the group. Barry also has been a longtime board member of the Anti-Defamation League.

Barbara Miller Lebak '74 earned her master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She is a librarian at the Burlington Public Library in Burlington, Wis. Barbara has three children and four granddaughters and lives in Burlington.

Doug Patton '77 MBA '84 was appointed executive vice president of engineering and chief technical officer at Denso International America Inc. He also was named a senior director of Denso Corp. After joining Denso in 1986, he served in many capacities, most recently as vice president of engineering. Doug is active with SAE International and is on its finance committee. He is on the boards of the

Larry Brooks '79 released the book The Detox Series: Seven Sermons on Decontaminating the Soul. He has authored several other books and is senior pastor at True Foundations Transformation Church in Chicago. Larry earned a bachelor’s of theology degree from Baptist Institute and a master’s in theological studies from McCormick Theological Seminary. He is an instructor at the Chicago Baptist Institute and president of the Christian Fellowship Baptist District of Chicago. He and his wife, Sandra, have three sons.

Chris Kennedy '79 was named divisional director of development for the Heartland Division of the Salvation Army (SA), located in Peoria, Ill. Previously, he worked in sales and management for pharmaceutical companies and was assistant director of development for the SA in Kansas and western Missouri. Chris earned an MBA at Illinois State University. He and his wife, Debbie, live in Peoria.
Road Scholar

When Joe Rhodes ’75 graduated from Bradley in December of that year, the Shreveport, Louisiana, native set out on what he called “the odyssey.” His goal was to travel around the country, live in a van and see as many basketball games as possible. A similar odyssey a decade later, while he was living in Texas, further fueled his interest in life on the road.

After almost 30 years spent writing for newspapers and as a freelancer, the journalism major put his life in gear in 2008 when writing opportunities declined. Selling almost all his possessions, he bought a van formerly used as a TV news van in Florida and headed for the highway back in his home on wheels, a Mercedes Sprinter van formerly used by TV news crews in Florida. The freelance writer’s nomadic lifestyle has taken him to all 49 “available” states and every Canadian province.

Joe Rhodes ’75 kicks back in his home on wheels, a Mercedes Sprinter van formerly used by TV news crews in Florida. The freelance writer’s nomadic lifestyle has taken him to all 49 “available” states and every Canadian province.

Joe Collins ’80 was named senior vice president of business development for Seattle-based Orion First Financial LLC. Joe, who holds a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Illinois, Chicago, lives in Lake Zurich, Ill., with his wife, Diane.

Angela Mennella Sopko ’80 was named principal at Everett Elementary School in Lake Forest, Ill. Previously, she was principal at Empire Elementary School in Freeport, assistant principal in Deerfield and a school psychologist with the North Suburban Special Education District. Angela has a master’s degree, an administrative certificate and a doctorate degree, all from Loyola University.

Jon N. Austin ’81 gives first-person presentations about Civil War-era medical practices and procedures, portraying a doctor from that time. He has made numerous media appearances, including for the Discovery Channel, National Geographic Explorer, National Public Radio and the New York Times.

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Joe Rhodes ’75 kicks back in his home on wheels, a Mercedes Sprinter van formerly used by TV news crews in Florida. The freelance writer’s nomadic lifestyle has taken him to all 49 “available” states and every Canadian province.

He also worked for the Illinois State Historical Society and the Museum of Funeral Customs. He earned two master’s degrees from New York University.

Randy A. Wieland ’81 was named president of Keyimpact Sales and Systems Inc. Previously, he was senior vice president of retail and foodservice sales for McCain Foods USA. He has completed graduate work at Western University in Canada and Northwestern University.

Debra Tucker Peterson ’83 was promoted to professor of nursing at the University of St. Francis, where she serves as the associate dean of undergraduate nursing. Debra holds a master’s degree in nursing from Lewis University and her doctorate from Capella University. She and her husband, Randy, have two children and live in Plainfield, Ill.

Michelle Sullivan Bahr ’84 was selected to participate in the yearlong Gerstacker Fellowship Program for public school leaders at Saginaw Valley State University, traveling to South Korea, Hong Kong and China as part of the program. The director of special education for the Midland County Educational Service Agency, Michelle holds a master’s degree in early childhood education from Saginaw Valley State. She and her husband, Brad, have two daughters and live in Midland, Mich.
John P. Becker ’84 is in charge of new business development for Evan Lewis Inc., a studio creating handcrafted residential luxury furnishings in Chicago. John, who earned an MFA from the University of Michigan, previously worked at Webster & Co.’s design center in Boston.

David D. Cox ’84 was named chair of the National Restaurant Association’s Supply Chain Management Council. He is president of ARCOP Inc., the Arby’s Supply Chain Cooperative. David also is on the National Council of Chain Restaurants’ Food Supply Chain committee and the Arby’s Foundation board. He and his wife, Mary Jo Weberskie Cox ’85, have MBAs from Bellarmine University. They have two sons and live in Milton, Ga.

Debora “Dee Dee” Budz Duffy ’85 was honored as the Horace Mann Educator of the Year for the Springfield, Ill., school district. Dee Dee, who holds a master’s degree in education from Benedictine University, teaches 3- and 4-year-olds at the Early Learning Center in Springfield. She and her husband, Rick, live in Springfield.

Johnathan C. Zimmer ’86 was installed as pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Spencer, Iowa. After owning and operating his own business, he served at two churches in Iowa. He holds a master’s in divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary. David and his wife, Julie, have six children.

Thomas Viers, MBA ’87 is regional vice president for Sonus Benefits at its new satellite office in Cape Girardeau, Mo. He worked as an employee benefits consultant for 15 years and as an account executive with Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Gene Sigel ’88 operates South River Winery in Geneva, Ohio. Involved with growing grapes for 20 years, he also is a vineyard manager at Chalet Debonne in Madison, Ohio. He and his wife, Heather, have three children.

Linda August ’89 was named editorial content chief for American Patchwork and Quilting magazine and the Meredith Crafts Group. She previously worked for Prime Publishing, Kalmbach Publishing and Michaels Company Inc.

Bill Burke ’89 is an executive director in the Chicago office of Ernst & Young LLP. He has more than 20 years of technology delivery experience in the insurance industry with a combination of consulting and CIO positions.

Andy Masur ’89 is a men’s basketball broadcaster for the University of San Diego. Previously, he was the radio voice for the San Diego Padres and also worked on Chicago Cubs broadcasts.

Dean Murin ’89 is an enterprise software license manager for IBM Corp. His wife, Cheryl Hiner Murin ’88, is an administrative coordinator for WSILC. They live in Peoria, Ill.

Kara Schein Critzer ’92, writing under the name Clara Kensie, had her book series, Run to You, published by Harlequin TEEN, the first series from the imprint. Kara and her husband, Glen, have two children and live in Round Lake Beach, Ill.

Janet Walker Lange, MA ’93 was presented the Arts/Education Award from the Women’s Fund of the Community Foundation of Central Illinois at the group’s Women to Women Luncheon. She is executive director of Bradley’s continuing education division and office of summer and interim sessions.

Charlotte D. Taylor ’92 co-authored the third edition of Bridging the Gap Between College and Law School: Strategies for Success. She earned a juris doctorate from DePaul University and is assistant dean for student services at Touro Law Center in Central Islip, N.Y.

Brian Howler ’93 was named head chef at the Ailsa Pub at Legends Resort in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Julie Downey ’93 was named managing partner of Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC. He also serves as the firm’s hiring partner. Tobin earned a juris doctorate at Washington University School of Law and was named an Illinois Super Lawyers “Rising Star” in 2011.

Gabrielle Engle Batkin ’94 was named staff director of the U.S. Senate’s Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Before joining the committee’s staff, Gabrielle was deputy staff director and clerk of the Senate Appropriations Committee. She holds a master’s degree in international affairs from George Washington University and lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband, Josh, and their three sons.

Jonathan P. Buss ’94 was nominated for a Primetime Emmy as producer of the CNN documentary The Sixties: The Assassination of President Kennedy. Previously, he produced series and projects for HBO, Cinemax and Syfy Channel. He was nominated for an Emmy in 2005 for Everybody Loves Raymond: The Last Laugh.
Class Notes

Dena Hodge ‘95

works in the Peoria, Ill., city clerk’s office — the first male employed there since 1981. Previously, he held positions with the Peoria County Sheriff’s Department, the city of West Peoria and the village of Princeville.

H. Bryan Soady ‘94

was named executive director of the Illinois Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. Previously, he was director of government and external relations for Red Cross chapters throughout the state. He lives in Chatham, Ill.

Michelle Brent Vaughan ‘94

was promoted to senior manager for HR customer support standards and practices at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Land O’Lakes, Fla.

Dena Hodge ‘95

was named principal of Neponset Grade School in Neponset, Ill. A teacher at the school for 18 years, she started its pre-kindergarten program and also taught fourth and fifth grades. She earned a master’s degree in school leadership from Concordia University.

Dan J. Sullivan ‘95

works in the Peoria, Ill., city clerk’s office — the first male employed there since 1981. Previously, he held positions with the Peoria County Sheriff’s Department, the city of West Peoria and the village of Princeville.

2000s

Kristina Maier Cook ’00 is an English teacher at Warren Township High School in Gurnee, Ill. She raised more than $6,000 for St. Baldrick’s Foundation and childhood cancer research by shaving 15 inches of her hair and donating it to Wigs for Kids. She and her husband, Paul Cook ’01, an English teacher at Lake County High School in Lake Villa, live in Lake Villa. Kristina holds a master’s degree in literature from Northwestern University, and Paul earned a master’s degree in education from Aurora University. Lindsay King ’00 is public services librarian in the Haas Arts Library at Yale University. This summer, she attended a satellite conference of the International Federation of Library Associations in Paris as a recipient of the ARLIS/NA Samuel H. Kress Foundation Award for European Travel. She also participated in a summer institute for art historians at UCLA. She previously worked at Northwestern University Library and the Art Institute of Chicago. Lindsay earned a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Illinois and a master’s degree in modern art history, theory and criticism from School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Heather Best Oatley ’00 was the top female finisher and set a course record in February’s 350-mile Iditarod Trail Invitational bicycle race in Alaska. A former basketball and volleyball player at Bradley, she cut more than a day off the race’s previous record. She is active in other winter sports, such as winter triathlon, and works for the U.S. Geological Survey. Heather and her husband, Jeff, live in Fairbanks.

Billy Wright ’96

was named head basketball coach at Western Illinois University, replacing former Bradley men’s basketball coach Jim Molinari. An All-Missouri Valley Conference player for Bradley, Billy previously was an assistant coach and associate head coach at WIU and an assistant at Ball State University.

Tammy Heard Carcasson ’97 spoke at the Leading Real Estate Companies of the World annual conference in February. She is a certified relocation professional and general manager/co-owner of Crowne Realty LLC in Bloomington, Ill. Tammy also founded ForSaleChoice.com. Previously, she worked for State Farm Insurance.

David Babbs ’98 MBA ’02 and his wife, Laura, announce the birth of their second child, Hailey Grace, on November 17. David is a technology supervisor at Caterpillar Inc. The family lives in Edwards, Ill.

Tammy Clark Lee ’98 and her husband, Brian, announce the birth of their sixth child, Sadie Jane, on September 12, 2013. They live in Pleasant Hill, Calif.

Gordon McAlpin ’96 is pursuing an MFA at the University of Minnesota. Multiplex: There and Back Again, the second print collection of his ongoing comic strip, won a gold medal in the graphic novel/drawn book-humor/cartoon category at the 2014 Independent Publisher Book Awards. He lives in St. Paul, Minn.

Kurt E. Larson ’99 wrote and directed his first feature film, Son of Ghastman, which won best independent film in the 2013 Rondo Hatton Awards, recognizing research, creativity and film preservation for classic horror movies. He lives in Santa Clarita, Calif.

2000s

Greg Maksimuk ’02 was named a “Top 40 Under 40” trial attorney by National Trial Lawyers. An associate in the Wheaton, Ill., office of Schiller DuCanto & Fleck LLP, he is vice president of the Kane County Bar Association and was named a “Rising Star” the past three years by Illinois Super Lawyers magazine. Greg earned his juris doctorate at John Marshall Law School. He and his wife, Melissa, have two children and live in Geneva.

Devon Johnson-Smith ‘02 and Albert “Junior” Smith III ’03 were married October 19, 2013. Devon is a forensic toxicologist for the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office. Junior is a global learning and development manager with Livingston International. They live in Frankfort, Ill.

Shawn Goetz ’94

is providing engineering and oversight at the newly opened Twin Cities office of Hanson Professional Services Inc. in St. Louis Park, Minn. He had been senior associate and project manager at the company’s office in Overland Park, Kan. Shawn is active with the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association and holds an MBA from the University of Kansas.

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2000s

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Daniella Levin Wolff ’01 and her husband, Raymond Wolff ’01, welcomed their third child, Delaney Rose, on May 14, 2013. Raymond is a firefighter, and Daniella, who holds an MSW from Loyola University, is a clinical social worker. The family lives in Arlington Heights, Ill.

James M. Connor ’02 is a systems engineer in electronic warfare countermeasures at Northrop Grumman. Previously, he was a software architect with Motorola Solutions. He lives in Streamwood, Ill.

Devon Johnson-Smith ‘02 and Albert “Junior” Smith III ‘03 were married October 19, 2013. Devon is a forensic toxicologist for the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office. Junior is a global learning and development manager with Livingston International. They live in Frankfort, Ill.
Documentary photojournalist, 2007 Pulitzer Prize winner and 2013 Pulitzer finalist Renée C. Byer ’80, was selected by the San Francisco nonprofit group The Forgotten International to photograph the story of global poverty for the book Living on a Dollar a Day: The Lives and Faces of the World’s Poor.

“The bottom line is more than 1 billion people are truly living on $1 a day, especially women and children,” Byer remarked. “That’s about one of every six people worldwide. Through my photographs, I can bring an acute awareness.”

For the 348-page book with the Forward written by the Dalai Lama, Byer photographed locations in 10 countries across four continents: Africa, Asia, South America and Europe. Although she was given a list of what to feature in each country, “a majority of the stories I discovered weren’t on the list at all,” Byer noted. “Content — the message — means everything to me. This is real life. Thomas Nazario, the brain trust of the project, sought to document the struggle for survival, and I focused on creating the image — a visual, human connection.”

Involving two years of shooting and 18 months of editing and perfecting colors, the book provides readers with a way to help. “Every chapter offers credible resources we researched while traveling,” she added. “I was humbled by the grace, generosity, fortitude and bravery of the hardworking men, women and children who allowed me into their lives — lives they did not choose and often cannot control. Living on a Dollar a Day is a call to action.”

Invited to campus last April as the 2014 Robison Lecture speakers, the six-time Pulitzer Prize nominee and her husband, award-winning photographer Paul Kitagaki Jr., work for the Sacramento Bee.

— K.M.
Scoring a Soccer Career

Brian Remedi ’94 MA ’96 has gotten a kick out of soccer for a long time, starting with his high school team in suburban Chicago to playing and coaching at Bradley. For the past five years, he has served as an executive with the U.S. Soccer Federation.

As chief administrative officer for U.S. Soccer, “I do a little bit of everything,” Remedi said. “There are very few years in the soccer cycle that aren’t busy,” he added, noting he attended the 2014 Men’s World Cup in Brazil in June and July. It was the fourth World Cup in a working capacity for him after seeing the 1994 event as a fan. “With the Women’s World Cup in 2015 and the 2016 Summer Olympics, there really isn’t any down time.”

Remembering games at Peoria’s Becker Park, he recalled the Bradley team’s early years: “Those were fun times. The feeling of pulling on the jersey to represent the school was thrilling. I remember having a great sense of pride and responsibility about it.”

After completing a four-year playing career on the Hilltop, starting in 77 games and winning honors as Defensive MVP and Most Improved, Remedi stayed on as an assistant coach while earning his master’s degree in English. “The beauty of a liberal arts degree is not always quantifiable. I learned how to work with people, to think critically, to be diligent and organized,” he explained.

A graduate school internship with U.S. Soccer set him up for a full-time position there and enabled him to work at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. After U.S. Soccer, he spent several years in Switzerland with a marketing firm tied to the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), soccer’s international governing body and sponsor of the World Cup. Back in Illinois, Remedi was working for a Chicago-area event company when he was recruited by the U.S. Soccer CEO to return to the Chicago-based federation.

“It’s been great to watch the evolution of Bradley soccer into a nationally recognized program,” he remarked. “I’m a Brave through and through and am really proud to say I played soccer at Bradley and received two degrees from the school.”

— B.G.
Quin Crawford ’05 and María Nardulli ’05 were married August 10, 2013. They live in Chicago.

Justin Koszarek ’05 received his first orchestra commission to write “The Current” for the Youth Symphony of DuPage County’s spring concert. He holds a master’s degree from Northern Illinois University.

Robert Puhr ’05 and McKenna Pencak ’07 were married May 10. Bob holds a master’s of divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary and is a hospice chaplain. McKenna, who earned a master’s degree from SIT Graduate Institute, is assistant director of international student and scholar affairs at the University of Notre Dame. They live in Mishawaka, Ind.

Charlie Roy, MA ’05 was named president of Villanova Preparatory School in Ojai, Calif. Previously, he was principal at Peoria Notre Dame High School and St. Mark Grade School in Peoria, Ill. Charlie and his wife, Aimee, have three children.

Lisa Esposito Heaton ’06 and her husband, Jeremy Heaton ’06, announce the birth of Lucas Bradley on March 5. Lisa, who earned a master’s degree at the University of Houston, is a scientist and sports dietitian with Gatorade Sports Science Institute. Jeremy is a service engineer with Allstate Insurance. The family lives in Palatine, Ill.

Beth Drilling ’07 was featured artist at Chalk the Walk, her fifth appearance at the event in Mount Vernon, Iowa. A member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, she is a freelance and commission artist. She lives in Peoria, Ill.

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Timothy Sedabres ’06 was named “Young Professional of the Year” for 2013 by the Green Bay, Wis., Area Chamber of Commerce. He is a vice president of finance for Associated Bank. Timothy, who earned an MBA at Saint Louis University, lives with his wife, Kaitlynn, in Green Bay.

Emily Perkins, MBA ’11 was a winner in the National Law Review’s Winter 2014 Law Student Writing Competition. She graduated from the Northern Illinois University College of Law in May. President of the NIU Law Student Bar Association, Emily joined the law firm of Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC in Peoria, Ill.

Russell Zehr ’11 works at the Music Shoppe in Normal, Ill., and is worship coordinator at El Paso Baptist Church. He plays in the Pontiac and Pekin municipal bands, the Illinois Saxophone Quintet and the Marc Boon and the Unknown Legends Band, as well as provides music programs for groups and churches.

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Mural Project Becomes Teaching Tool

Heather Brammeier ’00, associate professor of art at Bradley, submitted the winning design for a mural project at North Seattle College (NSC), an accredited two-year public college, earlier this year.

“When I read the international call for entries, I was teaching my color class and mentioned it to them. I thought I could do color studies, and it could be a nice example for them on how to apply what they are learning to real life,” Brammeier explained. “I was really motivated to stick with the proposal because I told my students about it.”

Commissioned by NSC’s public art committee, the project required that students in the school’s new mural art class — created and taught by Kelda Martensen — paint the actual mural. The artist also needed to visit campus at least twice. “When I first visited, some of the students seemed nervous they were going to disappoint me,” Brammeier recalled. “I told them there’s nothing they could do to upset or disappoint me. … I think that reassured them.”

Her design — primarily inspired by Seattle’s Licton Springs and wetlands — is unbroken, with each panel flowing into the next. At an unveiling celebration in June, Brammeier discussed how she incorporated the idea of diversity and the area’s history, using architecture and decorative arts in her approach. “I mentioned I drew from the artistic heritages because it’s looking at the best of the various cultures and how they connect to one another,” she said.

She also pointed out how the students’ involvement reflected that imagery: “When students go to college, whether right out of high school or returning as non-traditionals, they’re realizing the things that make them different, that maybe they were once self-conscious about, are what make them important to the community.”

While NSC’s students appreciated the hands-on experience, she also used the process as a teaching tool at Bradley. With the help of a live video stream, Brammeier’s beginning painting students could watch the mural’s progress, which was “really kind of cool.”

At 7 feet 3 inches tall by 50 feet wide, the mural was the perfect project for Brammeier, who acknowledged her education assisted with its design. “As an undergraduate, I took as many drawing and painting courses as I could with Oscar Gillespie [professor of art and graduate adviser and coordinator] because he taught so much about color and composition,” she said. “And, Ken Hoffman [professor emeritus of art] always made us paint really big paintings. Many people think it’s hard to make something big, but it’s not that much harder. For me, it’s easier because I can use my whole arm to make lines and curves. That’s something I demonstrated to the NSC students.”

An art major who earned degrees in painting and education, Brammeier also holds an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, she is president of the board for Backspace Collective, a Peoria-based artists’ group. Brammeier and her husband, Tony Bedenikovic, an associate professor of math at Bradley, live in Peoria.

— C.M.
Kelsie Barnhart ’14 is marketing coordinator at Central States Media in Peoria, Ill. She lives in Peoria.

Becca Wagner ’14 joined Hanson Professional Services Inc.’s office in Peoria, Ill. Previously, she was an intern for Hanson and Case New Holland in Goodfield, Ill.

Lynsey Weber ’14 is a third grade teacher at Rankin Elementary School in Pekin, Ill., where she will also coach the seventh and eighth grade girls basketball and volleyball teams.

In Memory

1930s

Dorothy Adamson Sours ’34 MA ’59, May 31, Peoria, Ill.

1940s

William H. Hart ’40, April 26, Peoria, Ill.
Grant Nelson ’40, March 20, St. Petersburg, Fla.
Frances Holtzman ’41, May 30, Wheaton, Ill.
Ruth Tyler Burger ’42, March 5, East Peoria, Ill.
Pauline Becker Osman ’42, June 11, Oregon City, Ore.
Julia Shea Haas ’43, June 29, El Paso, Ill.
Marion Volkens Nelson ’44, May 6, Pekin, Ill.
John Voelker Jr. ’44, March 22, Metamora, Ill.
Barbara Wroan White ’44, April 7, Morton, Ill.
Paul G. Pitsch ’45, April 21, Peoria, Ill.
Zetta Yaseen Bauer ’46, April 22, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Carson Yeager ’46, July 15, Hinsdale, Ill.
Vernon Welander ’47, June 5, Peoria, Ill.
Patricia Cleary Carney ’48, May 6, Joliet, Ill.
Wallace Jaquet ’48, March 1, East Peoria, Ill.
Marcella Friday Kaliher ’48, March 23, Peoria, Ill.
Thomas Loomis II ’48, April 17, Fanwood, N.J.
Dale Ritthaler ’48, July 3, Morton, Ill.
William Boudreau ’49, June 15, Fairview, Texas
Richard Byers ’49, Dec. 27, Austin, Texas
Robert J. Edwards ’49, March 25, Peoria, Ill.
Albert Gianessi ’49, March 8, East Peoria, Ill.
Alice Harding ’49, April 10, Peoria, Ill.
Dean Lightbody ’49 MA ’59, June 2, Peoria, Ill.
Gloria Hubbard Lurie ’49, July 24, Peoria, Ill.

1950s

Fred Benner ’50, March 29, Coppell, Texas
Robert Fritz ’50, July 13, Cocoa Beach, Fla.

In Tribute

Bruce Sours ’49, credited with nurturing and saving minor league hockey in Peoria, died on July 10.

A Peoria-area car dealer and business owner, Sours twice owned the Peoria Rivermen minor league hockey team. Starting as a salesman in the 1950s, he became a partner in Velde Ford in 1965 and purchased Arnold Ford in Vero Beach, Florida, in 1976. He also operated Velde Lincoln Volvo and Velde Cadillac Buick GMC. He later opened the Corner Store on Main and the Black Rabbit bar in downtown Peoria.

He bought the Rivermen from the city of Peoria in 1989 and later started a team in San Antonio. After selling the Rivermen to the parent club St. Louis Blues in 2008, Sours joined others to buy a franchise for Peoria in the class-A Southern Professional Hockey League after the Blues sold the Rivermen and the team relocated in 2013.

A baseball player on the Hilltop, Sours started coaching while in school and taught for six years. He was a member of Sigma Chi. Named the University’s Distinguished Alumnus and a member of the Centurion Society in 1995, he was selected for the Bradley Athletics Hall of Fame in 2004. A World War II veteran of the Army Air Forces, he is survived by his wife, Rebecca, along with three sons, two stepsons, three grandchildren, three stepgrandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

— B.G.

Continued on next page.
In Memory

Laurence Hile Sr. '50, July 19, Lakewood, Wash.
Elizabeth Willmeroth Kivett '50, Feb. 12, Peru, Ill.
Orville Kurtz '50, May 5, Lehigh Acres, Fla.
Charles "Ted" Luker '50, June 12, Springfield, Ill.
Kathleen Boles Melchiore '50, Oct. 4, 2013, Deerfield, Ill.
Bruce Wienke '50 MS '52, May 31, Pana, Ill.
Robert Zicaro '50, March 31, Palos Verdes, Calif.
Donald Insalaco '51, May 10, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
David Kelleher Sr. '51, March 27, Tallahassee, Fla.
Robert F. Woerner '51, July 15, Dunlap, Ill.
Vincent R. Zerbonia '51, March 3, Peoria, Ill.
Paul Geiseman Sr. '52, May 5, Peoria, Ill.
Nanette Nicot Meals '52, June 17, Peoria, Ill.
Dorothy A. Murphy '52, March 10, Pekin, Ill.
Ada Oetgen '52, Feb. 3, Peoria, Ill.
Harlan Specketer '52, April 17, Ironwood, Mich.
Ray Bronsteader '53, March 2, Brookfield, Ill.
Morris "Dean" Warner, MS '53, April 14, Moro, Ill.
John Barbee Sr. '54, March 14, Edelstein, Ill.
Harry Dawson '54, May 1, Peoria, Ill.
Frank "FM" Garrett '54, July 12, Lacon, Ill.
Maurita Irwin '54, July 14, East Peoria, Ill.
Donald Rauber '55, April 18, Peoria, Ill.
Rita Knox Howe '57 MA '67, March 23, Peoria, Ill.
Stanley Kerker '57, April 15, Peoria, Ill.
Theodore Norman '57, Feb. 28, Salem, Ore.
Ronald Arbizzani '58, March 14, Fort Myers, Fla.
Carol Larson Beaty '58, April 10, Kokomo, Ind.
Arthur Blank '58, July 1, Springfield, Ill.
Richard H. Parsons '58, March 26, Peoria, Ill.
Ronald Summer '58, June 13, Pleasant Hill, Calif.
Lolabel Walden Taylor '58 MA '68, May 20, Toulon, Ill.
John H. Becker Jr. '59, June 10, Springfield, Ill.
Marvin Bell '59, April 17, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Ronald Clemens '59, May 3, Metamora, Ill.
Joyce Buchen Goldhammer '59 MA '77, May 15, Peoria, Ill.
Stephen Kerpan '59, July 11, Calif.
Judith Landis Petzing '59 MA '73, July 21, Peoria, Ill.
James B. Siegle '59, May 22, Cohutta, Ga.

1960s

Thomas Gleason '60, May 1, Joliet, Ill.
Ronald Reeder '60, July 21, Peoria, Ill.
Madeleynn Warda Ryan '60, April 29, 2013, Miami
Phillip Clemens '61, May 23, Davenport, Iowa
Douglas Gingrich '61, April 23, West Melbourne, Fla.
Byron Hiles '61, April 28, Lafayette, Ind.
James P. King, MBA '61, July 4, Glen Ellyn, Ill.
Raymond D. Schneider Sr. '61, April 2, Warwick, N.Y.
Bernard J. Smith, MBA '61, March 16, Morton, Ill.
Eldon "Al" Woerner '61, April 4, Wyoming, Ill.
Ruth Thies Woerner '61, May 26, Peoria, Ill.
Alfred Anderson '62, June 5, Leesburg, Fla.
Franklin Brumwell '62 MS '63, June 12, 2013, Chicago
Robert Lightfoot III '62, July 8, Des Plaines, Ill.
Dick Sears '62, June 9, Peoria, Ill.
George Weyhrich '62, March 1, Bluffton, S.C.
Paul Endres '63, June 28, Bowling Green, Ohio
Kurt Griminger '63, May 12, Peoria, Ill.
Jack Hummel '63, June 20, Amissville, Va.
Jon David Steinmetz, MA '63, June 1, Asheville, N.C.
Richard Schwebel '64 MBA '68, July 15, Peoria, Ill.
Phyllis Shirley '64, April 20, Pekin, Ill.
Edmond Tusnadi '64, Feb. 21, Bellevue, Wash.
H. Michael Curtis '65, July 15, Sarasota, Fla.
Jerry Shike '65, March 26, Bethel, Conn.
Nancy Swisher Cunningham '66, July 21, Yates City, Ill.
Donna Kuher Nerstad '66, March 31, East Peoria, Ill.
Kenneth Baer '67, June 15, The Villages, Fla.
James Thrush, MEA '67, May 13, Peoria, Ill.
Robert Davies '68, May 16, Springfield, Ill.
Raymond Lotz '68, Dec. 2, Manteno, Ill.
Kay Ann Rawls McMillin '68, May 22, Key West, Fla.
Carter "Gene" Sarver '69, June 3, Ottawa, Ill.
David Sering '69, March 4, East Peoria, Ill.

1970s

Robert Backlund, MBA '70, July 6, Morton, Ill.
Stephen Rogers '70, April 13, Peoria, Ill.
Richard Rawlings '71, July 15, Jacksonville, Ill.
Robert Elias '72, June 29, 2013, Miami
Mary Ann Watkins Middleton, MA '72, May 31, Peoria, Ill.
Michael Moen '73, April 12, La Crosse, Wis.
Richard Wiley '73, July 20, Peoria, Ill.
Lamonte Landivittori '74, July 8, Morton, Ill.
Michael W. Riley '74, July 22, Sarasota, Fla.
Alice Goetze Schwager '74, March 22, Peoria, Ill.
Thomas E. Stonebock '74 MA '84, July 4, Peoria, Ill.
Melvin Stanford, MA '75, April 8, Mackinaw, Ill.
John E. Young '76, March 4, Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Ruth Hildebrand Batstone '78, May 4, El Granada, Calif.

1980s

Mary Beth Mahoney Caldwell '81, July 26, Springfield, Ill.
Scott R. Johnston '82, March 18, Pasadena, Md.
Ethan Schultz '82, April 25, Chester, N.J.
Beverly Dickinson Snodgrass, MFA '86, April 12, Indianapolis
Glenn Davis '88, May 25, Peoria, Ill.
Jo Anne Manley Clark '89, July 18, Savannah, Ga.

1990s

Michael Boley '91, April 22, Dunlap, Ill.
Charles "Dan" Karpowicz, MBA '94, July 9, Peoria, Ill.

2000s

Matthew Domzal '02, June 14, Mokena, Ill.
Samuel J. Felder '03, April 11, Menlo Park, Calif.
Heidi L. Hoffman '03, May 20, East Peoria, Ill.
Sue Currie, MA '07, June 1, Peoria, Ill.
Lori Shumaker Moore '08, June 14, Morton, Ill.

2010s

Daniel M. Johnson '14, July 6, Naperville, Ill.
Francis “Frank” Licka '17, June 17, Frankfort, Ill.

Faculty

Dr. John Schweitzer, professor emeritus of communication, died May 4 in Peoria, Ill. A member of Bradley’s faculty from 1993 to 2008, he was department chair from 1993 to 1999. He taught as a Fulbright Scholar in 1999 to 2000 at Sofia University and the American University, both in Bulgaria. A visiting scholar at Hong Kong University in 2007, he was a lecturer at Oxford University in England and at schools in Singapore and Shanghai. He also taught at Texas Tech University for nine years. Before moving to academia, he worked in the newspaper, marketing and advertising fields. Active in several professional groups, Schweitzer earned his master’s degree at Western Michigan University and his doctorate from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Surviving are his wife, Nancy, along with three daughters, three stepdaughters, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Address Changes:
Email alumnirecords@bradley.edu, or write to Alumni Records, Bradley University, 1501 W. Bradley Ave., Peoria, IL 61625.

In Memory Guidelines:
Submit an obituary by mailing a newspaper clipping or memory card from the funeral home to Bradley Hilltopics, 1501 W. Bradley Ave., Peoria, IL 61625.

Class Notes Information: Send Us Your News!
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Class Year ___________Degree __________________________________
Advanced Degree(s) _________________________________________
Institution(s) ________________________________________________
Home Address ________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State_____ ZIP __________
Email _________________________________
Phone _________________________________
Current Job Title(s) __________________________________________
Employer ____________________________________________________

Name _______________________________Maiden ___________________
Bradley Alum? _____________Class Year _____________________
Degree ____________________________________________________
Advanced Degree(s) _________________________________________
Institution ________________________________________________
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Bradley Hilltopics Fall 2014 49
Los Angeles About 30 alumni gathered August 3 at Dodger Stadium to see the Chicago Cubs win 7-3. Among those at the star-studded event were (top) Eric Petersen ’03, his wife, Lisa, and daughter, Sophie; (above left) Amanda Curry ’14, Justin Restaino ’13 and Tami Lane ’96; and (above right) Charley Steiner ’71 HON ’10 and Hall of Fame announcer Vin Scully.

Visit bradley.edu/homecoming or stop at the Hayden-Clark Alumni Center for complete information about Homecoming events.

Wednesday, Oct. 15
* Lighting of the “B” Celebration, including participation by athletic teams, performances by dance groups, a fireworks display above Bradley Hall and more, 8 p.m., Founder’s Circle

Friday, Oct. 17
* Founder’s Day Convocation, 10 a.m., Markin Center
* Founder’s Day Luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Michel Student Center ballroom
* Bradley Bowl: Students vs. Faculty, 4:30 p.m., Alumni Quad
* Shabbat Services and Dinner, 5 p.m., Hillel House
* 50 Plus Club Reception, 5:30 p.m., Braves Club Room, Renaissance Coliseum
* Red-White River Jam (basketball team showcases, family festival, live music), 5:30 p.m., Peoria RiverFront

Saturday, Oct. 18
* Gary Tippett Memorial 5K Race; registration, 7:30 a.m.; race, 8 a.m.; Markin Center
* Service on Saturday (SoS); breakfast, 8:45 a.m.; depart, 9:30 a.m.; Markin Center
* 50th Class Reunion Campus and City Tour, 9 a.m., depart from Hayden-Clark Alumni Center
* 50th Class Reunion Dinner Reception, 5:30 p.m., Peplow Pavilion, Hayden-Clark Alumni Center
* Tailgate, 4 p.m., Shea Stadium
* Soccer Game vs. Central Arkansas and Post-game Fireworks, 7 p.m., Shea Stadium
Members of the Kansas City Area Bradley Alumni Network attended a networking social event June 19 at Yard House of the Legends, including (from left) Logan Schultz ‘13, Amber Dungey Griffis ‘02, Kurt Mester ‘08, Tricia Anklan ‘12 and Kevin Bogner ‘92.

Among the dozen alumni who watched the Nationals beat the Milwaukee Brewers 8-3 on July 19 were (from left) Alyson Jordan ‘09, Steven Tomaszewski, Selena Russell and Steven Yeninas ‘07.

Members of the Bradley University Black Alumni Alliance (BUBAA) wished students a great year on the Hilltop at their first Student Send-off Barbecue on August 7 at Dan Ryan Woods.

The Central Illinois Bradley Alumni Chapter (CIBAC) held its annual Bratfest on August 1 at Jimmy’s Bar. More than 80 alumni enjoyed live music and great food to benefit CIBAC scholarships. Shown (from left front) are Betty Volturno, Jeri Haskin Maher ‘59, Pat Doran Kellogg ’67 MA ‘68, Janelle Deissler Niemeier ‘87 and Saranda Calip ’00; (back) Megan Holder ’05, Kyle Lewis ’04, Bob Janssens ’71, Bob Howell ’50, Jason Planck ’01, Ed True ’54 and Joe Runkle, MBA ’94.

Members of Braves of the Last Decade (BOLD) with Kaboom! and President Joanne Glasser at the Young Alumni Night event in the Peplow Pavilion at the Hayden-Clark Alumni Center. The networking social featured U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock ’02 as a guest speaker.

The St. Louis Area Bradley Alumni Chapter (SLABAC) welcomed 10 members of the Class of 2018 to the Bradley family on August 10 at the 25th Annual SLABAC Alumni Picnic and Student Send-off. Heading to their first year on the Hilltop are (front row from left) Emily Unruh, Lauren Goeler, Jessica Rakers and Summer Sepulveda; (back row) Anna Smith, Francis Stuart, Jim Geoffroy, John Posth, Ben Packman and Molly Patterson.

Visit the Alumni Association’s flickr page at flickr.com/BradleyAlumni to view more photos.
A SPIRITED START ON THE HILLTOP

Students were pumped up for the start of school at the inaugural B United event at the Renaissance Coliseum, a new Welcome Week activity. More than 1,500 students participated in cheers, played audience interaction games and heard from athletic team coaches. The cheerleaders, Bravettes dance team, soccer and volleyball teams, Kaboom! and student fan group, The Red Sea, were on hand for the festivities, as was the pep band.

Amid the myriad other Welcome Week experiences were (clockwise) President Joanne Glasser greeting students and families on Move-in Day, and students sampling the delicacies at Taste of Bradley, which they showed off with selfies. Plus, Ryan Miller ’14 brought his venture, PlayGround Games — a blacklight, indoor version of popular playground games that placed third in the 2014 Project Springboard competition — to the Markin Family Student Recreation Center for Late Night BU.

While the Activity Fair enticed students to enjoy a bit of hoopla and splurge on free food on the quads, the carnival-like atmosphere at the Block Party/Stroll Show on Fredonia Avenue promised an evening of excitement.

ONLINE Visit bradley.edu/go/ht-Welcome Week2014 to see Welcome Week highlights.
After seeing children from Nuevas Illusiones, Guatemala, carrying containers of water up a steep hill, Jacob Abou-Hanna ’15 wanted to know what the experience was like: “I ran to them, took over and started running up the hill. They were amused by it and ran alongside me. I made it to the top and was panting. They do this every few hours!” Abou-Hanna was one of many students helping the community through an Engineers Without Borders project. See page 10.