



Letter from the Editor: The Scout's 125th anniversary

Dear Scout alumni,

It is exciting to think that this February will mark 125 years of The Scout's existence.

As many of you know, The Scout is Bradley's longest-running student organization and has employed many staff members and undergone several makeovers since its foundation in 1898 (I still cannot believe that I have been selected to be the Editor-In-Chief, so if anyone can tell me when the nerves go away, that would be fantastic).

As I'm sitting here writing this letter, to all the past Scout alumni, I can't help but get a little sentimental and teary-eyed.

This is where many of us hold memories of late nights, stressful deadlines, inside jokes and so many memories from our years on staff. Currently, on our chalkboard, we have a clock out tracker for our editing nights, a Greek life police reports leaderboard and, of course, staff quotes that hopefully never see the light of day.

I'm sure for some of you The Scout is a distant memory, a job that helped guide you on the path that you have taken – whether it be a career in journalism or one that doesn't involve checking the AP Stylebook 24/7. No matter where you are now, I hope that The Scout has left an impact on you that makes you smile when you think about your time in the office.

Without having The Scout as part of my college career, I have no clue what I would be doing every Thursday night. This office has given me a space to grow as a journalist and as a person; that is all thanks to you, the alumni, for keeping The Scout alive for all of these years.

I hope you enjoy reading about The Scout and its history in this special edition. The current staff has put our hearts and soul into making it one of the best yet.

I'll do everything I can to keep this office up and running for these next two years, so it can continue on for another 125,

Madalyn Mirallegro
The Scout Editor-In-Chief (2023-2025)



From paste-up to printing to the pandemic

Following The Scout's transition to online-only publication

By **Mason Klemm**

Sports Co-Editor

On March 31, 1995, The Bradley Scout published an article describing the paper's new website, which allowed readers to access articles over the World Wide Web, which was established just a couple of years prior. This was done in conjunction with publishing their weekly physical paper, giving their audience multiple options for consuming news.

"The results of this can only be positive," then-editor Dean Nielsen said in the article. "It can only serve to expand readership and coverage area. I can't imagine any negative feedback."

Now, 28 years later, The Scout has moved fully online, with the exception of momentous occasions such as the 125th anniversary edition, doing away with the physical paper that had been around since its inception in 1898.

The decision did not come lightly, but rather involved a variety of factors, the biggest of which was the COVID-19 pandemic. In the midst of Bradley extending campus-wide online classes to spring break, 2018-2020 Editor-in-Chief Tony Xu published a Letter from the Editor to The Scout's website on March 13, 2020 saying, "we plan to resume the print on April 17, when students are back on campus."

The students didn't come back.

The Scout stopped publishing print editions following this hiatus, as the paper still published articles to its website while students were away from the Hilltop. When students returned in the fall of 2020, The Scout was fully online.

"It was an unfortunate last print edition, but it was a memorable one for sure," Xu said.

Back in the Day

For much of its history, The Scout and its publishing process operated the same way. Once stories were ready, the words would be typeset, the staff used wax rollers to put the words on the pages and the pages were put on an easel for all the editors to see. The staff then went through and edited the piece, using X-Acto knives to cut out errors and rulers to straighten out inconsistencies.

In the 1970s, the typesetting happened at The Observer, a Peoria newspaper that was housed in the Junction City Shopping Center. Once the 80s rolled around, that process moved to the basement of Bradley Hall, where the staff would have to run back and forth from The Scout office to get the type to put on the page.

"It was just a lot of chaos and wax and X-Acto knives and PMTs in the dark room," Lisa Coon, Editor from 1985 to 1986, said. "It was very archaic."

The process was by no means an exact science, but with the technology available at the time it's what the staff had to do. Stories were written using manual typewriters and students like 1971-1972 Editor Steve Tarter picked apart pieces while they were on the formatting board.

"I would miss things when I looked at that board, but when the paper came out, boom that typo jumped right out at me," Tarter said. "It was like, 'How did I miss that?'"

The 80s also introduced computers, although The Scout did not utilize them right away. The paper only had two computer terminals, so typewriters were still the hardware of choice for the time period.

"If you have an entire staff trying to do everything on two computers, it's almost impossible," Coon said.

Many Wednesday nights were spent in the office and in the paste-up room which often spilled over into Thursday morning, causing many staffers to miss their early classes.

"I was lucky I had a very understanding [French] teacher who allowed me to get through there because I probably missed half her classes," Tarter said.



photo courtesy Dean Nielsen

Large desktop computers, at right, and paste-up board for physically composing material for pages, at left, are seen in this Scout newsroom photo from approximately 1993

Advertising was also much bigger in the past than it is today for Bradley's student newspaper.

Businesses like Domino's, Subway and Taco Bell all advertised with The Scout, while Avanti's exclusively advertised in The Scout since they knew their ad would reach the student body.

"If you wanted student business, [The Scout] was where you put it," Tarter said. "Now, it's so different because kids are online and therefore the whole world is really at their fingertips."

Computers and the Internet

The Scout still used the paste-up process into the 1990s, although computers became more commonplace. In the summer of 1990, the university put computers in Harper Hall as part of their "Residence Halls of the Future" program, but they were still big, clunky and hard for most people to use.

The Scout website was created in the mid-1990s in response to the dot-com boom, and even 1998 to 2013 advisor Dayna Brown Nielsen knew the change was needed.

"We were just starting to move things online because that's what you did," Brown Nielsen said. "You had to keep up."

Brown Nielsen, who also served as Managing Editor from 1990 to 1991, saw the benefits in an online version of the paper. It opened up a whole new world of possibilities that the previous iterations could not deliver.

However, while online publishing may give editors readership metrics and allow them to correct errors after publishing, Brown Nielsen says there was nothing like walking around and seeing the student body reading her work on Fridays.

"When people are reading [The Scout] on their phones or their computers, you don't get to see that," Brown Nielsen said. "You don't get to see your professor with The Scout on their desk. I loved that; that was incredible."

With a physical copy, it was almost impossible to avoid The Scout, but now it's up to readers to seek out the news they want to see. Brown Nielsen can't believe the way this dynamic has shifted.

"Never in my wildest dreams would I have ever thought paper would go away," Brown Nielsen said.

Computers and the Internet

While COVID sped things up drastically, the plan to move The Scout online was already in the works. Xu spent the summer of 2018 redesigning the website, and he and his staff developed online products such as the newsletter and podcasts to enhance the paper's online experience.

"We always knew that the physical papers were fading away," Xu said. "Students don't really pick up a copy, so we know online is the future."

Xu, like many other Scout staffers before him, had to pick up the paper early on Friday mornings and distribute it to the various stands on campus and in the community that housed The Scout. During his time on staff, it was evident that this delivery method was not worth it as people started to consume their news in other ways.

"It's a miserable experience," Xu said. "And then it's even more painful when we go to those newsstands and see the full stack is still there."

Xu knew that advertisers would see this same drop-off, further supporting the move to online-only publishing.

"They're gonna come back to the table and negotiate a better rate and we're gonna lose our budget," Xu said. "Strategically, that's the direction we knew we had to go."

The staff created a Google Drive for everyone to work in, and the current version of The Scout was born.

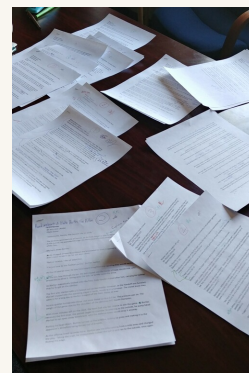


photo courtesy Angeline Schmelzer

Paper printouts of submitted stories rest on the main desk in The Scout's office. When COVID struck, the editing process moved entirely online.

Moving The Scout online was required and inevitable, as today's news is 24/7 and frequently updated. No longer restricted to Friday publishing, the version of The Scout you read today is much different from the paper of the past, and its online transition will be the key to its survival for another 125 years.

"When it's only online, there's a lot of competition for your eyeballs," Tarter said. "And I think that's just gonna be the case now in the digital world."



The most valuable skills learned by Scout alumni

By **Anaiah Davis**

Managing Editor

In The Scout’s 125 years of publication, reporters and editors have gained knowledge that has aided their professional and personal growth. Here are some of the most valuable skills that alumni learned while on staff.

Flexibility

Jaylyn Cook, Voice Editor from 2014 to 2015, attributes his professional development and resilience to his time at The Scout.

“The Scout taught me how to be flexible,” Cook said. “I was originally brought on staff as a reporter to cover News and Voice. While I was more interested in Voice from jump, learning the basics of competently reporting harder news stories improved my skills as a feature writer. ... Learning how to do both hard news and features early was instrumental in my development and success as a journalist long after I left Bradley. In other words, I owe The Scout my career.”

Problem-solving

Meg Dickinson, Managing Editor from 2006 to 2007, learned how to find solutions to sudden issues that she encountered in the publishing process.

“I learned how to solve problems quickly,” Dickinson said. “Our editorial cartoon fell through Wednesday afternoon of my first week as Managing Editor. I talked an artistic classmate into drawing his first-ever cartoon by that evening so we could go to print Thursday afternoon. Coming up with a backup plan in a pinch has served me well in my career.”

Interviewing

Hyacinth Filippi Worth, Editor-in-Chief from 2004 to 2005, learned how to determine the most important components of a story when conducting interviews.

“One of the most valuable skills I learned while working at The Scout was how to ask good questions,” Worth said. “Asking good questions leads to great interviews – most of the time.”

Dayna Brown Nielsen, Managing Editor from 1990 to 1991, echoed this sentiment.

“[I gained] the ability to interview people, ask questions and listen to what people had to say – that’s so important,” Nielsen said. “I had the opportunity to talk to so many people at such a young age, from the president [of the university] to famous people. ... From a journalism standpoint, that’s crucial to any [career] you end up [in].”

Teamwork

Collaborating with others is a vital aspect of working in a newsroom. Lisa Stemmons, Voice Editor from 2016 to 2018, explained how she learned to navigate group dynamics at The Scout.

“The most prominent [skill I learned] has to be the ability to talk to anyone,” Stemmons said. “I developed a fearlessness when approaching people to look for quotes and that’s transferred to finding a way to connect with any of my co-workers, even if it’s not always the most pleasant interaction.”

Curiosity

Brett Halbleib, Editor from 1987 to 1988, says The Scout gave him a thirst for knowledge.

“What I appreciate most is how The Scout taught me the value of curiosity,” Halbleib said. “Working at The Scout made me realize how little I actually knew about ... everything. I learned to nurture my curiosity and let it be a guide, which has served me well throughout my life.”

Professionalism and critical thinking

Barb Kraeger Hailey, staff member from 1985 to 1987, says the leadership she received on staff provided her with skills that she has used throughout her careers in journalism and hospital and social service communications.

“I particularly appreciated Sunday night critiques with Jerry McDowell, an editor from the Peoria Journal Star, and photojournalism Professor Howard Goldbaum,” Hailey said. “They challenged us to think and treated us like professionals. We really took the work seriously and challenged ourselves.”

Leadership and confidence

Angeline Schmelzer, Editor-in-Chief from 2021 to 2022, says being on staff helped her gain self-assurance and an ability to lead others.

“The most valuable asset I took from The Scout would be my growth as a leader and my improved confidence,” Schmelzer said. “I walked into Sisson 319 as a wide-eyed, quiet freshman copy editor, not really knowing how to properly edit the work of those who [had been] doing it longer than me. ... I went from hiding in the back of the room at critique and carefully editing to sitting at the head of the table and leading editorial meetings. The Scout brings something out of you that a classroom rarely will.”

Scout alumni memories: Predictions, in-jokes, pranks

By **Roy Lard**

News Co-Editor

Over 125 years, hundreds of Bradley students have been involved with The Scout. Here are some of alumni’s favorite memories from the newsroom.

Brett Halbleib, 1986-88

“[In] my senior year (1987-88) our basketball team was really good (led by Hersey Hawkins). Before the season, I wrote a piece lamenting how easy our schedule was and poking light fun at some of our opponents. I predicted a victory over West Virginia by about 32 points. An irate West Virginia fan wrote back, berating my lack of knowledge of the Mountaineers program and demanding I eat crow if Bradley doesn’t win. If memory serves, we won by 34. Sweet validation.”

Yosha Taylor-Bourgea, 1993-96

“I have fond memories of staying up late doing layout on PageMaker, a wonderful program that gave way to something called (I believe) Qwark, which was cheaper but not nearly as versatile. Layout was my favorite part of the job, apart from writing ... [My] best memory, though, was probably when the Scout editors went to Chicago and won Best Regional Newspaper in the college category at some Young Journalist Award ceremony.”

Lisa (Dwyer) Depies, 1999-2003

“When I would call into The Scout office to get my story assignments or answer questions, I’d usually talk to (and lovingly harass and tease) the Managing Editor or Editor-In-Chief. I later married the Managing Editor, and the Editor-In-Chief served as our best man!”



Steve Depies, 2001-04

“Spending all of my Wednesday nights in The Scout office [was my favorite memory]. There was always a fair bit of chaos on Wednesday nights and figuring out how to manage it....”

Hyacinth Filippi Worth, 2002-05

“My favorite memory of working at The Scout was putting together the April Fools edition in 2005. We created a parody story based on the student body elections in which four of us on staff posed as fictional candidates with strange platforms. This was at the time Roy the Cat was running for president in the student body elections, and his owners flyer’d the whole campus with Roy’s campaign. We made ourselves laugh so hard with that year’s edition.”

Jaylyn Cook, 2014-15

“I loved the late Thursday nights we spent in the office finalizing the paper before it hit the shelves early Friday morning. It’s a great feeling to see the final product come together in front of you, but more importantly, this was excellent quality time with the other staffers. This is where camaraderie is built, in-

jokes are born and lasting memories are made. I looked forward to it each week.”

Lisa Stemmons, 2014-18

“It’s too difficult to narrow down a specific favorite memory from working at the Scout, but I do have a favorite feeling. I’ve always loved how the dynamics change in the newsroom from year to year with new staff but it always managed to remain a place where I was free to be my most authentic self. It’s a beautiful conglomeration of people from varying backgrounds, simply brought together because they have a passion to record Bradley’s history. I’ve yet to find an experience or space that can replicate it in my post-grad life.”

Angeline Schmelzer, 2018-22

“Between all the ‘Scoutings,’ POD runs, late Thursday nights and ICPA adventures, it’s difficult to point out one favorite memory during my four years with The Scout. If I had to choose one to share, I would go with the time we had a Jeopardy night. The first one was over Zoom because we couldn’t meet in the office due to COVID-19, but we made the best out of it and still had some good laughs. It was so much fun that we decided to do it again when we could meet in person. There are so many more wonderful memories that I treasure from my time with The Scout, but we’ll just have to save those for the 150th Anniversary.”

Jonathan Michel, 2020-23

“I can’t pick one, but walking a mile with sports co-editor Matt Lucas in the pouring rain from our hotel to the Enterprise Center at Arch Madness, winning lots of ICPA awards and off the rails Thursday nights in the office come to mind.”



How The Scout prepared its alumni for their careers

By Ian Cunningham

Copy Editor

Over its 125 year history, The Scout has attracted student journalists of all backgrounds and future career goals to join its staff. While it's true that The Scout is a practical way to launch a career in journalism, several alumni have pursued other paths.

When former Scout Editor Pat Oldendorf graduated from Bradley in 2011, he expected to teach English for the rest of his professional career. Today, Oldendorf is an executive office attorney for the Illinois Supreme Court.

"Law school had always been on my radar," Oldendorf said. "I was a good writer. I was a good researcher. A lot of that kind of ties back to my journalism roots."

Oldendorf spent two years teaching English to less fortunate students in rural Mississippi as a part of Teach For America. Afterward, he decided that teaching wasn't for him.

"I knew I didn't want to continue in education," Oldendorf said. "I just, quite frankly, couldn't hack it. I was not a great teacher. It's the hardest job I've ever had and I just couldn't continue."

Oldendorf attended the Chicago Kent School of Law and earned his Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree. He moved through multiple legal advising positions in Cook County government before reaching his current position at the Illinois Supreme Court.

"I think you should take every opportunity that presents itself no matter how weird or random," Oldendorf said. "I think that you should look at your education, your experience and your skill set and then continue to pursue what you are interested in. Even if you can't see the path, just keep walking down it and you'll find your way."

Learning how to communicate

Former Managing Editor Gretchen Welch graduated from Bradley in 2014 with an undergraduate degree in civil engineering. Since then, she has worked in civil engineering and construction jobs, now working as a construction consultant for K-12 schools.

"I help them [the principals] get stuff built, like as an owner's [representative] for them," Welch said. "Being able to communicate between education-minded people, principals and school boards and ... construction people [is a valuable skill]."

Welch's experience working for The Scout as a Copy Editor and Managing Editor equipped her with the communication skills that made her stand out throughout her career.

"I have to be able to walk on a construction site and hold my own and ask questions that maybe I don't even know about the subject matter, really. But at least I can say, 'Hey, what does that mean for this?' You know, 'What does that do to our schedule?'" Welch said. "And the writing – being able to write an email to someone is invaluable. Being able to write a technical report, invaluable. I know it's gotten me interviews that I wouldn't have gotten otherwise."

Former sports reporter Jim Durbin graduated from Bradley with a journalism degree in 1993. After graduation, he moved back home to New Orleans. When pursuing a career in journalism didn't yield results, Jim Durbin turned to what he knew best: the restaurant business.

"I went to grad school for a semester. And, you know, I started looking at what I would have to do to pay off my student loans and to actually make it in the biz ... and I kind of gave up before I started," Jim Durbin said. "You get out and you're working for newspapers, as a stringer, and then also part-time at a radio station and you might be working for a television station part-time. I didn't feel like having to work that hard to make \$20,000 back then. Not when I can make \$35,000 [or] \$40,000 [working] for a restaurant."

Jim Durbin quickly worked his way up to managing a restaurant in his hometown for many years after he left graduate school.

"In New Orleans, there's a restaurant on every corner," Jim Durbin said. "Maybe it was my journalism and my speech background [that helped me get my job]. I knew quite a few folks in New Orleans. When I moved back home it was natural for me to go work for a restaurant. It was really easy and I started in restaurant management and then kind of worked my way up."

After a decade in the food service industry, Jim Durbin returned to school, on his wife's recommendation, to become a certified personal accountant. He now owns his own practice in New Orleans.

A family tradition

"I went back to school, did what my wife told me to do," Jim Durbin said. "Then I got the hours in accounting to sit for the CPA exam, and I've been a CPA with my own firm down here in New Orleans."

Jim Durbin's wife, Pam Durbin, and sister, Erin (Durbin) Craig, also worked for The Scout during their time at Bradley.

Erin (Durbin) Craig was a typist for the Scout from 1994 to 1997. She graduated with a music degree and a concentration in voice. After graduation, she worked for Saint Francis Children's Hospital in Peoria and Bradley's admissions and alumni relations departments. Craig currently works part-time for Kansas State University.

"I work in one of the graduate departments, agricultural economics [as] a student coordinator," Craig said. "So basically, I'm the one that keeps the students on track to make sure that they are completing the paperwork they need to get their research hours done [and get] through the program in a timely manner."

Although Craig's career diverged from her major, she found that her experiences learning about the journalistic process translated into her work.

"One of the things I really learned from the paper was the whole PR angle of things," Craig said. "When I got into those professional jobs, we had to do either press releases for an event or do interviews for an event. Whether it was for the paper or one of the news stations or something like that, I kind of understood what was going on and what they expected ... because I had worked in the paper."

Craig is an example of extracurriculars' power to shape the college experience.



photo courtesy Erin (Durbin) Craig

Sibling staffers at The Scout Erin (Durbin) Craig, right, Jim Durbin, center, pose in this 1996 photo.

"What I did in an extracurricular [has] really helped me in other areas," Craig said. "And so it's important, I think, for students to know [not to] spend all your time in the classroom. Try to find those other activities that you're really interested in, or you could be a part of, because they may be the things that really shape you."

Pam Durbin was a typist for The Scout during her senior year at Bradley. She graduated with a degree in International Business in 1994. After graduation, she attended Tulane University School of Law and earned her J.D.

Pam Durbin currently works as a staff attorney for the Federal Court of Appeals in New Orleans, a position she called, "the best law job ever."

"It's kind of like being a law clerk, but instead of working for one single judge, my work could go to any judge. And it's essentially just research and writing," Pam Durbin said.

Though she only spent one semester working for The Scout, Pam Durbin found that her undergraduate experience expanded her horizons and equipped her for a successful career.

"Knowing a lot about a lot of different things was much more a Bradley thing than it was a Tulane thing," Pam Durbin said. "[In] undergrad in general, you get to do a little bit more of, 'Let me just take this class because it sounds interesting.' And getting involved with the paper was something that I [had never done] when I was in high school, so it kind of gave me a broader view of how things work in general."

'English major a with purpose'

Former Scout Editor Dean Nielsen graduated from Bradley with communications and political science degrees in 1995. Nielsen's plans to work for a print newspaper were overturned when the price of newsprint shot up during his junior year and caused hiring freezes across the industry.

"I probably sent out 300 resumes to different places. I had two job offers, you know, within 60 days of graduating, and ... neither one of them were really a great fit for me," Nielsen said. "They wanted me to kind of cover subjects I didn't really want to cover in communities I didn't want to live in. So then, I turned to my other passion, which is politics, and then headed in that direction."

In 2010, he launched a political consulting firm in Seattle. Today, that firm has expanded to include offices across the country. Though his desire to be a professional journalist didn't pan out, Nielsen found that his experience working for The Scout lent itself to his career in politics.

"I use the skills and stuff from my journalism background virtually every day ... I always thought that journalism was an English major with a purpose,"

Nielsen said. "It's like the ability to write quickly, to write in short and snappy and punchy sentences, and headlines. All these are skills that I still use."

As someone who hires young college graduates, Nielsen wants students to know that practical skills often take precedence over college major or GPA when it comes to hiring decisions.

"I wouldn't worry too much about what your major is," Nielsen said. "When you graduate college, nobody cares. I would just focus on developing your skills and running with it. If you're passionate about writing, learn how to become the best writer you can be."



photo courtesy Niels Sorrells

Scout Editor-in-chief Cali Bergold waves to the camera in this 1989 photo in the publication's news office



‘How do I help you improve your writing?’

How former Scout staffers became newspaper advisers

By Payton Egnew

News Co-Editor

As The Bradley Scout approaches 125 years on campus, former staff members have recalled the experiences in the office that helped shape their careers as newspaper advisers for other publications.

“The thing I remember most was the Sunday night meetings that we had with our adviser going over all the stories and [how the paper] turned out,” Illinois Press Foundation director Jeff Rogers said. “It was a really good experience to learn how professional journalism worked.”

Rogers worked for The Scout from 1986-88 as a Sports Editor. Rogers also worked at the Peoria Journal Star in the sports department during his last two years at Bradley.

When asked to consider his favorite moment while at The Scout, Rogers recalled his love for sports and getting to cover basketball.

“The Missouri Valley Tournament was in Peoria in 1988 and I got to cover that tournament,” Rogers said. “Just to be able to do that and getting to know the basketball players was pretty cool. I still think back to that time and how fun that was.”

Now working at the Illinois Press Foundation, an organization that offers state government coverage to newspapers across Illinois through Capital News as well as offers scholarships and grants to students, Rogers often uses the tips he learned in undergrad to speak to other students when giving out scholarships at high schools.

“Don’t be afraid to ask any questions,” Rogers said. “The one thing I always tell students is to ask [questions] and the source will always appreciate you waiting to make sure you understand it one hundred percent, rather than seventy percent.”

Jade Sewell, a 2022 Bradley graduate and current junior and senior English teacher at Illini Bluffs High School, described her time at The Scout as an indescribable, magical experience. Along with being an English teacher, Sewell also works as an advisor for Illini Bluffs’ newspaper, Tiger Times.



photo courtesy Jade Sewell

Illini Bluffs High School English teacher Jade Sewell holds awards from the Illinois College Press Association during the group’s 2022 conference.



photo courtesy Jeff Rogers

Illinois Press Foundation director Jeff Rogers speaks to a group in Springfield. He said he uses some of the tips he learned working at The Scout in his daily work with the organization

“The Scout is probably my favorite part of Bradley,” Sewell said. “I can’t even begin to explain what a dream it was to work with the people in this office and to be a part of something that I deem to be so important.”

Sewell described how she uses the same editing and storyboard template at Illini Bluffs that The Scout used for planning editions. She felt that it was a logical layout that helps her students edit smoothly.

Sewell expressed gratitude for her connections with people through The Scout. When she needed help on how to work a tool on Adobe InDesign or sports section advice, her former colleagues were always willing to help.

“The Scout in general ... has helped me become a better editor,” Sewell said. “Something that I had to learn for the first time is [the question of] how do I help you improve your writing [when advising Tiger Times]?”

Kevin Capie, general manager and faculty advisor at The Vidette, Illinois State University’s student newspaper, worked at The Scout from 1992 to 1996 as a sports editor. Capie explained how this position led to postgraduate job opportunities.

“One of the things I tell my students now is to be cognizant of the connections you are making because it’s going to pay off down the line,” Capie said. “I might trade some of the late Wednesday and Thursday nights, but [the experience] was just wonderful.”

Given the journey he took to get his current job, Capie described his experience as full circle. He took what he learned and used it to benefit the position he currently holds at The Vidette and as a journalism and sports communication professor at Illinois State University.

Capie explained how he learned not to be afraid of making mistakes because he knows that they are inevitable.

“There’s a tendency that people think every word has to be perfect,” Capie said. “This is a learning experience; you want to learn what works for you and what doesn’t. I tell my students don’t be afraid to make mistakes, you know I want you to make mistakes because that’s how you learn.”



Kevin Capie

Capie also feels that the Scout taught him to step out of his comfort zone.

“It’s really easy to be safe and not want to try new things, but get out there and try it,” Capie said. “You’ll never know what you’ll find. It’s never as bad as it seems.”

Capie revealed that his favorite part about working for The Scout was being able to go to Providence in 1996 with the basketball team. He also mentioned how the staff worked together on late editing nights.

“It’s probably the same where everyone is pulling together because that deadline is going to come whether you want it to or not,” Capie said.

When asked what advice they would give current Scout staff, Rogers, Sewell and Capie each expressed gratitude toward The Scout and explained their views on why the current staff shouldn’t take it for granted.

“Take chances whether it’s you covering a story, covering a meet or doing journalism on a platform that you’re not comfortable with, try it,” Rogers said. “You never know where those learning experiences are going to take you in your career.”

Capie wanted everyone to enjoy their time in the office because it goes by quickly. The people that you meet and work with pay off in terms of friendships but also professionally.

Sewell described how college is such a small fraction of a student’s total life, yet leaves a huge impact.

“Every Thursday night where you’re banging your head against the table, be so grateful that you get to be in a room full of people who care as much as you care,” Sewell said.



photo courtesy Jeff Rogers

Illinois Press Foundation director Jeff Rogers speaks to a group of students



Barb Mantz Drake: The editorial crusader

By Payton Egnew

News Co-Editor

At a time when women were hardly allowed to study journalism at the collegiate level, one young woman made her mark on Bradley's campus.

Barb Mantz Drake began her college search by exploring universities where she could major in journalism. Fortunately, Drake discovered that Bradley, which was conveniently located in her hometown, allowed women to major in journalism.

Bradley offered her a full-ride scholarship to attend and major in journalism. With all of those factors, Drake knew that Bradley would be the best choice for her.

When Drake first started at Bradley in 1963, she was intrigued when the professors didn't try to push female journalists to cover stereotypically female topics, such as cooking or fashion.

"They [the journalism professors] told me that I would be successful and that I would have a career in journalism," Drake said.

The professors, especially Drake's favorite, chairman of the journalism department Paul B. Snider taught his students equally, with the same goals in mind: accuracy, interest, timeliness and effectiveness.

Snider taught Drake and her colleagues that accuracy matters in journalism to the point where if students made one mistake in their articles, they would be dropped a letter grade and if they made two, he would flunk them.

Snider wanted all of his students to have an interesting voice when writing their articles, get their work turned in on strict deadlines and know the importance of their work.

The latter of Snider's lessons stayed with Drake the most as she began her journey with The Scout and became an editorial crusader.

Time at The Scout

Drake began her time at The Scout shortly after committing to Bradley, working as a News Reporter her freshman year. She joined The Scout because she always knew that she wanted to be in the field.

"I loved getting the information," Drake said. "I loved talking to people ... and I loved seeing the results if an editorial campaign that we waged was successful and brought something about."

After working as a news reporter, Drake began to make her climb up the ranks of the staff. She was promoted to Associate Editor before making her way to Editor-In-Chief.

While in different roles on staff, Drake's articles ranged from covering large news events, such as a demonstration protesting Bradley basketball's decision to turn down the invite to the National Invitational Tournament to Drake's favorite: editorials.

Editorials had always drawn Drake in. She loved knowing that the words she wrote had an impact on the community.

"[Editorials were] a broader perspective and I saw it as a way to promote getting things done, to try and make for a better university," Drake said.

Not only did Drake enjoy the writing aspect of working for The Scout, but she also appreciated the important lessons it taught her about her and her staff as an Editor.

"You don't get by without a good staff," Drake said.



photo courtesy Madalyn Mirallegro

1967 Scout Editor-in-Chief Barb Mantz Drake poses underneath The Scout's logo in the publication's Sission Hall office space on Sept. 24, 2023

Though she left The Scout quite some time ago, Drake has one particular memory that she still laughs about today.

Singer Johnny Mathis was taking a trip to Peoria to perform at Bradley in 1967 and as the Editor-In-Chief at the time, Drake decided to assign herself a feature on her favorite performer.

"He was just as nice as could be," Drake said. "And he welcomed me and wanted me to stay as long as I wanted to."

While Drake had fun in the office, she was also very committed to the editorials produced. Drake wanted every editorial she wrote to have an impact on Bradley's campus.

Drake referred to the process of writing editorials as "editorial crusades" and herself as an "editorial crusader." Drake remembers pushing this motto and nickname through an editorial she wrote about The Scout.

"I wrote an editorial once that said, 'The Scout was good to inform, to stimulate thoughts, to promote action, to enrich the educational experience and to entertain,'" Drake said. "And that editorials would bring to light problems and to promote action on them."

One campaign that Drake remembers was fighting against the university's rule that students could only miss three meetings of a course before they were dropped from the class. Drake and the rest of The Scout staff fought for the rule to be revoked.

Another crusade Drake fondly remembers is an editorial requesting more lights in the quad after a female student was jumped and beaten in the middle of campus one evening. Drake led the editorial crusade and fought hard for more lighting fixtures to be installed around campus, which she said is glad to see remain all these years later.

"I get a kick out of seeing [the lights on the quad]," Drake said. "I'm really happy to see that."

After The Scout

Although Drake loved writing for The Scout, she had to make a difficult decision in her senior year. Drake was working 50 hours a week on top of being a full-time student, member of Chi Omega sorority and a part of the student board of activities.

"I was with The Scout as Editor for a year, but I left at the end of my first semester of my senior year – and I was ready to be done," Drake said.

After graduation, Drake worked at the Peoria Journal Star. Here, Drake wrote multiple editorials urging the city to build The Peoria Riverfront Museum and to finish the Rock Island Trail. She credits The Scout for helping her find a purpose for her editorials.

"We [the Journal Star staff] campaigned to complete the trail and they did," Drake said. "I thought about that a couple of days ago when I was walking on that part of the Rock Island Trail. That's here and I had a role in it being here."

As Drake continues her career and furthers her education through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Bradley, her one piece of advice for the current Scout staff and aspiring journalists is the same as that of her favorite professors.

To remember that your work is important and to enjoy your work.

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- Across**
- 1. Places were Nicole Kidman introduces films
 - 5. Vegan protein option
 - 9. Homies
 - 14. Lamb : ewe :: ____ : mare
 - 15. Person, place or thing
 - 16. Conscious (of)
 - 17. Stories passed through the ages
 - 18. "Humans of ____" (40-Across section)
 - 20. Soothing succulents
 - 22. Can be dominant or recessive
 - 23. Former President of Bolivia Morales
 - 24. Main Street strip mall
 - 27. James who wrote "A Million Little Pieces"
 - 28. "Fo ____" (slangy affirmative)
 - 29. Dropped an atom bomb
 - 31. Latvian, e.g.
 - 35. Former President of Uganda Amin
 - 37. Part of a sandwich order
 - 40. What was established in 1898
 - 44. Girl Scout cookie
 - 45. Language spoken in southeast Asia
 - 46. Omar of "House"
 - 47. Winning
 - 50. Distribution company behind "King Kong" (1933) and "The Most Dangerous Game" (1932)
 - 52. Extract ore
 - 54. Office of 40-Across
 - 60. Tar Heels of the Atlantic Coast
 - 61. Cuba, por ejemplo
 - 62. Spooky
 - 63. Work of 40-Across
 - 67. "Game of Thrones" actress Headey
 - 68. 2005 documentary with the subtitle, "The Smartest Guys in the Room"
 - 69. Roman Emperor from January to April of this clue's year A.D.
 - 70. Snake eyes result
 - 71. Tries again
 - 72. [That was a close call]

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71								72				73			

For the solution of the crossword visit <https://www.bradleyscout.com/category/puzzles/>

73. Zero, as with a scale
- Down**
- 1. Insurance company with a quacking mascot
 - 2. Cash cash money
 - 3. Ricochet on a pool table
 - 4. Nap
 - 5. Minecraft block that can be lit
 - 6. [Woah]
 - 7. Fire: Sp.
 - 8. Not yet shaped
 - 9. Baseball player Murphy
 - 10. Leathersmith's tool
 - 11. Bit of rain
 - 12. Orchard
 - 13. India's ____ Rebellion, 1857-59
 - 19. People of northeastern Canada
 - 21. "That's a little odd" (internet lingo)
 - 25. Branch of Islam
 - 26. "Meet the Press" host Chuck
 - 27. Backyard barrier
 - 30. MMA achievements
 - 31. Boy band with an ARMY

- 32. [I just had an idea]
- 33. Tart tart topping
- 34. Steakhouse option
- 36. Sick
- 38. "Uh huh"
- 39. UFO pilots
- 41. Common subject of lab testing
- 42. "I'm all ____"
- 43. Artist Ono
- 48. Bones, to an anatomist
- 49. Naptime support
- 51. More than none
- 52. Madre o abuela
- 53. Hole ____
- 55. Doth speak
- 56. Spartan serf
- 57. Madison Square Garden, e.g.
- 58. Boeing 787 Dream____
- 59. Rent
- 61. Places to stay
- 64. Kanga's kid
- 65. "Murder, ____ Wrote"
- 66. Lawn care activity