



INSIDE

# Extraordinary



BRENAU THROUGH THE EYES  
OF SIX EXTRAORDINARY STUDENTS  
WHO HAVE BEEN THERE.



Kristen Spence, '11

**Hometown:** LaGrange, Georgia  
**Major:** Mass Communication  
**Activities:** Freshman Class President, Tau Sigma, Brenau Golden Tiger Cheerleader, *Alchemist* student newspaper, television production crew  
**Aspiration:** Entertainment broadcaster on BET or Entertainment Tonight



Karleigh Fusia, '08

**Hometown:** Dahlonega, Georgia  
**Major:** Graphic Design  
**Activities:** Zeta Tau Alpha Historian and Reporter, soccer team  
**Aspiration:** Graphic designer



Hira Babar, '10

**Hometown:** Marietta, Georgia  
**Major:** Biology  
**Activities:** Student Government Association, Alpha Gamma Delta, American Medical Student Association, Circle K, Residential Assistant  
**Aspiration:** Go to Optometry School, pursue a doctorate degree and open a clinic



Audrey Blocker, '08

**Hometown:** Hendersonville, North Carolina  
**Major:** International Studies/  
Spanish minor  
**Activities:** Director of Social Enrichment Alpha Delta Pi, crew team, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society  
**Aspiration:** No plans yet, but lots of options; want to travel more



Tessy Rusera, '09

**Hometown:** Kigali, Rwanda  
**Major:** Conflict Resolution/  
Legal Studies  
**Activities:** Brenau Association of Mediators and Legal Scholars, International Club, Residential Assistant, Silhouettes  
**Aspiration:** To save the world




Ashley Lamphier, '11

**Hometown:** Flowery Branch, Georgia  
**Major:** Music Education/  
Concentration in Piano  
**Activities:** National Association of Teachers of Singing  
**Aspiration:** Pursue a Master's Degree and teach music



## Get the Inside Word on the Brenau Experience

Want to know the meaning of “extraordinary?” Wonder what it’s like living in a Brenau residence hall? Curious about the options at Hopkins Dining Hall? We’ve lined up six extraordinary guides ready to reveal their favorite haunts around Gainesville, secret study spots and the perfect Brenau weekend.  Get answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the Brenau experience, living in Gainesville and women’s college in general. Get the inside scoop on extraordinary.

What are the advantages of going to a women's college?

**Kristen:** Women open up more when there are no men around. They are not afraid to express their opinions and show their true intellectual capabilities.

**Ashley:** For the first few months, I forgot I was even at a women's college. You're not isolated and there are boys on campus, but life is much more stress-free. You can go to class in your sweats and no one cares.

**Hira:** It helps a woman become stronger in personality as a whole. Women tend to work together and understand each other well. We know what we want here at Brenau and we aim for our goals.

**Karleigh:** You gain a sense of empowerment and don't have the insecurities you might with guys in your classes. You can really focus on your work and speak your mind.

What first attracted you to Brenau?

**Tessy:** The fact that this was a women's college. That attracted my dad too!

**Audrey:** The beautiful campus attracted me. I never thought I'd go to a small school or a women's college, but I wouldn't trade my experience here for anything.

**Kristen:** The size. I like having conversations with my teachers—that's how I learn best and the small class size encourages that interaction.

My favorite Hopkins Dining Hall food is...

**Ashley:** Brownies.

**Tessy:** Chicken quesadilla—it's delicious.

**Karleigh:** Pasta day is great.

**Hira:** Mashed potatoes.

**Kristen:** Peaches.

Your favorite place in Gainesville?

**Audrey:** The park on Lake Lanier. It's a relaxing place to clear your mind and just sit and look at the lights on the lake in the evening.

**Ashley:** Ted's Pro Music. They have all kinds of instruments and sheet music.

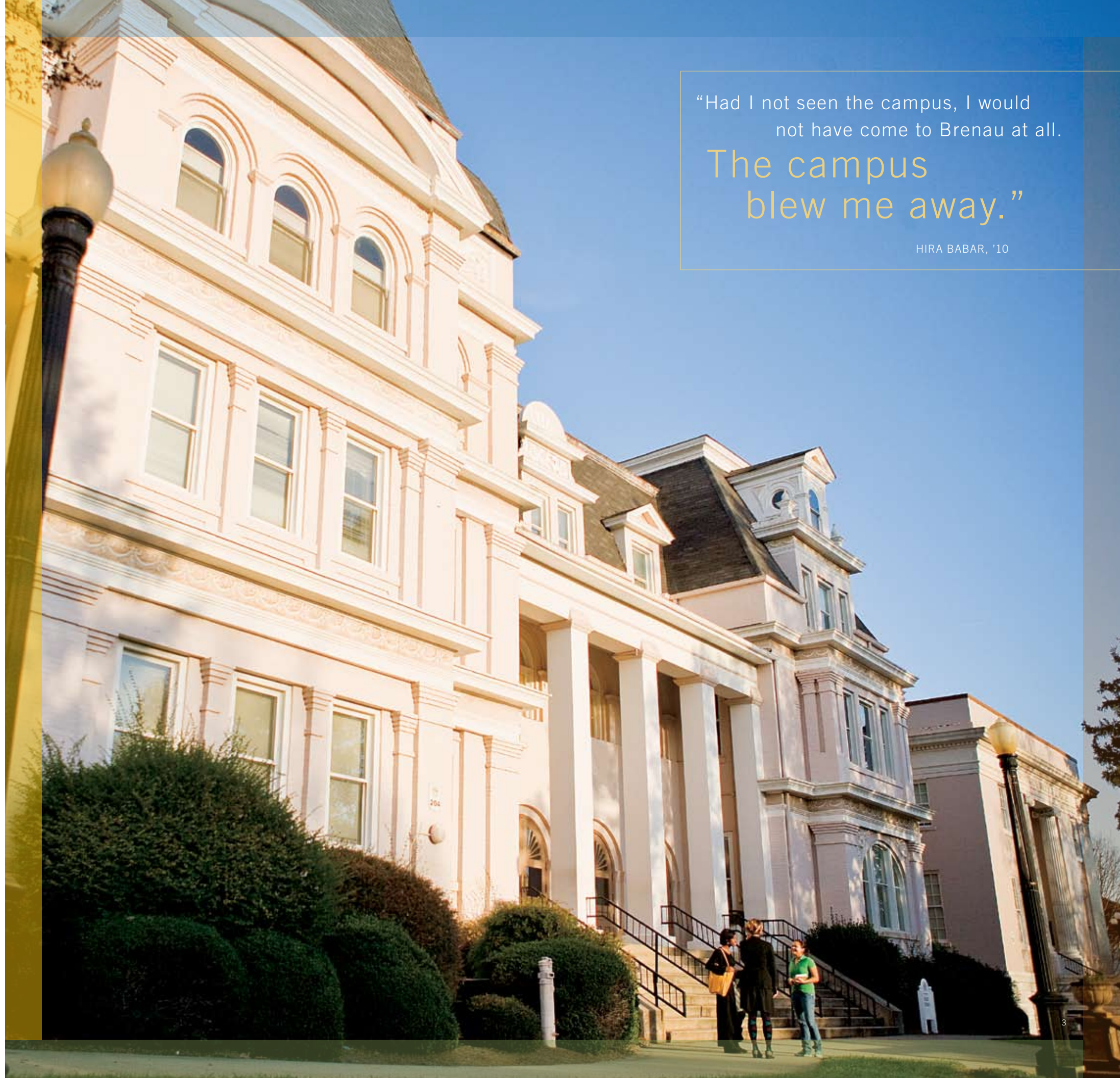
**Tessy:** Café and Crepes has great food and atmosphere.

**Hira:** The Gainesville Square.

“Had I not seen the campus, I would not have come to Brenau at all.

The campus  
blew me away.”

HIRA BABAR, '10





“When I tell my friends in Africa that I was talking to my dean, they’re all surprised. The relationships you have at Brenau with your professors and deans are

**so open and friendly.**

Even the President walks by and says, ‘Hello, Tessa.’”

TESSY RUSERA, '09

#### My favorite study spot is...

**Tessa:** The back of the library is very quiet so there are no distractions.

**Ashley:** Burd Center. It really inspires your creativity.

**Kristen:** The lobby of Crudup Hall.

#### You knew you belonged at Brenau when...

**Karleigh:** Brenau felt like my home away from home.

**Hira:** When I walked on campus for the first time.

**Kristen:** When everyone I met on campus was so friendly to me.

**Ashley:** When I came here and I already felt like I was home.

**Tessa:** When I Googled Brenau from home in Africa. I instantly liked what I saw!

#### Your favorite art or social event this year was...

**Ashley:** The theatre department’s Broadway Night.

**Audrey:** Any event at the Simmons Art Gallery. They always have great shows.

**Kristen:** The Evening of Dance performances.

**Karleigh:** Take Back the Night, which was all about preventing rape and domestic violence.

#### Your idea of the perfect Brenau weekend is...

**Tessa:** The cafeteria serves its best meal ever then my friends and I go to the mall and still have time to hang out back on campus that evening.

**Hira:** Having no homework and sleeping in.

**Audrey:** It would be spontaneous and unplanned. Go out with friends, get some dinner and then rent a movie. Total relaxation!

#### You knew you were doing well socially when...

**Kristen:** I realized I had friends I could be myself around and when I was elected Freshman Class President.

**Ashley:** People were knocking on my door to ask for help with homework.

**Tessa:** When 500 other students knew my name.

**Hira:** The first time someone came up and smiled at me...and by the way, that happens all the time!

**Karleigh:** When everyone was yelling hi to me by name as I walked across campus and I wasn’t sure I knew all of them.

You knew you were doing well academically when...

**Ashley:** Same answer! When people were knocking on my door asking for help with homework.

**Audrey:** When I became a member of the Freshman Honor Society.

**Tessy:** When I got my first report card.

**Hira:** It was the first time one of my teachers came up and said, "Job well done."

The one teacher you must take while at Brenau is...

**Tessy:** Dr. Ken Frank. Like my other professors, he takes a real interest in his students and stays after class to talk and listen to what you have to say.

**Audrey:** Dr. Heather Casey. She's very challenging and gets you to really reach.

**Karleigh:** Dr. Winter Elliot and Dr. Jay Gaspar in the English Department.

**Kristen:** Do I have to pick just one?!

What kind of person does well at Brenau?

**Kristen:** A person who is willing to go beyond the everyday schedule of classes and studying and venture out to the campus to learn new things and experience being on her own and being independent.

**Hira:** Someone who has the passion to pursue a career that interests her and makes good use of Brenau's resources and professors.

**Karleigh:** Someone who wants to learn not only academics but also the lifetime skills they will need.

**Audrey:** Someone who is driven and ambitious.

What's your advice to high school seniors considering Brenau?

**Audrey:** Keep an open mind and you will find so much to love here.


**Hira:** If you want to make a difference in your life and be successful, Brenau is the place for you.

**Kristen:** Follow your heart when it comes time to make a decision and do not let the fact that it is a women's college have any negative effect on your decision because where there are women, there are always plenty of men.



"The women of Brenau are very independent, assertive and decisive. That fierce spirit is guided by the faculty and staff who help you fulfill your dreams."

AUDREY BLOCKER, '08



“I feel empowered to lead  
an extraordinary life.  
I know I’m headed in the  
right direction and being  
well prepared  
to go where  
I want to go.”

ASHLEY LAMPHIER, '11

Any regrets about going to Brenau?

**Kristen:** None whatsoever!

**Karleigh:** Sometimes I wish I had gone to a bigger school, but this experience made me better as a person and opened a lot more opportunities to me.

**Tessy:** No, and I've never been homesick in the three years I've been here. Everyone is so friendly and welcoming and the faculty keeps an eye out for you to make sure everything is going well for you.

What about the whole 'no guy' thing?

**Audrey:** It's really not a big deal. You will meet guys and there are lots of opportunities to socialize.

**Ashley:** Actually, it's great. It helps you focus on your studies. And there is no absence of guys. You see them all the time around town and on campus.

**Kristen:** I've never had an issue with finding guys to hang out with because it's not hard to convince a guy to come and visit you with a bunch of his friends.

If your time at Brenau had a theme song, what would it be?

**Tessy:** “Ain't No Mountain High Enough” to keep you from coming to Brenau.

**Kristen:** “Ain't Gonna Give Up” by Yola. The song basically says never give up, never let up, never shut up... keep going!

What would you say to high school seniors who might be a little afraid about making friends here?

**Audrey:** You'll make friends. I guarantee it!

**Karleigh:** It's never a problem. The biggest focus of everyone here is to get you comfortable.

**Tessy:** You will make friends the first day you're here. I did.

**Ashley:** People are so friendly and do so much to reach out to those who are new. And remember, you're not the only one going through this. There are hundreds of your classmates in the same boat and we can all work it out together.

**Kristen:** I found two of my best friends on the first day of orientation. Just be yourself and there will be people here who you will get along with and who will accept you for you.

Open the door to your extraordinary life. Call us.

**Have more questions?** Of course you do. Feel free to pick up the phone and give us a call. You can speak directly to the Dean of Admissions by calling 770.534.6100 or toll-free 1.800.252.5119 ext 6100; You may also email us at [admissions@brenau.edu](mailto:admissions@brenau.edu).

# Brenau at a Glance

**Character:** Private, residential, four-year college for women founded in 1878

**Location:** Gainesville, GA, 50 miles northeast of Atlanta; near Lake Lanier, the Mall of Georgia and at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains

**Motto:** "As Gold Refined by Fire"

**Enrollment:** 930, representing 23 states and 12 countries

**Students who live on campus:** 50%

**Minority students:** 23%

**Full-time faculty with terminal degrees:** 96%

**Average class size:** 13

**Student-to-faculty ratio:** 13:1

**Academic calendar:** Fall, Spring and Summer semesters

**Active alumni:** 6,500+

**Student life:** More than 40 clubs and organizations

**Number of sororities:** 8

**Athletics:** NAIA Division teams in basketball, cross-country, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis and volleyball. Club team in crew.

**Athletic team name:** Golden Tigers

**Fitness classes:** Yoga, kickboxing, Pilates, aerobics

**Number of theaters on campus:** 2

**Ghosts:** One. Goes by the name "Agnes."

**Estimated number of people who attend Brenau theatrical performances each year:** 53,000

**Number of pieces of art in the permanent collection:** 1,100 (and growing)

**Radio station:** WBCX 89.1 FM

**Cable TV station:** Cable 95

**Financial aid:** Academic, athletic, leadership, talent and need-based scholarships and awards are available. Individual academic department awards are also available, such as the Ada Little Scholarship Fund for women in Brenau's business school. More than 80 percent of Brenau students receive some form of financial aid.

**Admission deadlines:** Rolling admissions



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