Dear BOLT community,

We hope your start to the year was just as exciting as ours! The week before the fall semester we ran our annual 5-day trip, and it couldn’t have gone more smoothly. With minimal crises and evacuations, those at base camp had a lot of time to relax and enjoy the Whites. This year, for the first time, two of our groups were designated as service trips. They spent two days installing water bars on their trails, and hiked the rest of the week. Our hope was that through these groups we could give something back to the Whites that for so many years have provided a special place for us.

We also wanted to introduce ourselves as the new manager team for the 2013-2014 academic year! During the fall we got to lead BOLTers in our fall programs, such as an epic BOLT Wars, lessons in backcountry baking, and an exciting scavenger hunt. With the New Year comes leader selection time! Starting in February we will usher in a new leader class to the BOLT community. We can’t wait until training begins! We are thrilled and honored to spend this year leading and making an impact with BOLT!

-Armide Storey, Leader 2011, Manager 2012-13, Class of ‘13.5

Why We Do It

“It only took a little while for me to remember the most amazing thing about BOLT: the people.”

300 tortillas.
12 pounds of peanuts.
120 oranges.
120 apples.
18 blocks of cheese.
The list went on and on.

It was the day before the BOLT leaders departed for the annual spring training trip. I mentally reviewed my shopping list as I stood outside of Sam’s Club waiting for the doors to open. I hadn’t slept much that week. I had two exams to take before leaving for the trip, and one of my many tasks for BOLT was to make sure everyone was fed. That Tuesday was not the first time as a BOLT manager I felt overwhelmed by the commitment I had signed up for.

When I got back to campus I was going to have to mix up all the GORP, divide the food for each group, and make sure I didn’t accidentally poison anyone with a nut allergy.

continued on pg. 5
ALUMNI UPDATES!

BOLT Wedding Announcement!

Chris Saunders (BOLT Leader Class of 2008, Mentor 2010) and Grace Price (BOLT leader class of 2009, Mentor 2010) are getting married! Though they still live in Providence, they dearly miss the weekly BOLT meetings, Shelley’s and Natalie’s dogs, and of course, frequent and reflective debriefs. They got engaged last May on Block Island when Chris proposed to Grace on the beach.

Katie Reynolds, BOLT Leader ’05

I recently finished thru-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail with my partner, Julia. It was a beautiful, exhilarating, and tiring summer. We began in late April at the Mexican border and finished in mid October in British Columbia, Canada. We experienced everything from 103 degree heat in the shade near Palm Springs to four feet of snow in the North Cascades. We met all kinds of wonderful people in the trail community. A couple of families even took us into their homes, listened to our stories, fed us dinner, and gave us beds for the night. We enjoyed an all-you-can-eat-junk-food-tour, and we’re remembering how to eat vegetables again. I’m still not sick of peanut butter or mac and cheese! I’m looking forward to getting my stuff out of storage and finding a place near Boston to call home. If you’re considering a thru-hike I would highly recommend it, and I’d be happy to answer and questions I can. You can reach me at katie.w.reynolds@gmail.com.

Latonya Slack BOLT ’88, Brown ’89

Despite my earlier protestations, I’ve been living Los Angeles for more than 20 years. Thanks to BOLT, I’ve had many wonderful opportunities to explore local trails nearby and in the Santa Monica Mountains, now with my 2-year old German shepherd rescue pup - Bishop. After law school, I pursued work in public interest law, community organizing, as director of a statewide women’s health policy nonprofit organization and with democracy focused philanthropy. I hung my shingle last year and I’m now a consultant to individuals, organizations and communities seeking creative ways to answer big questions and navigate change. Would love to hear from “the early years” at slackla@gmail.com.

Becky Fellman, Leader ’05

I’m still living in Madison WI and working as a school psychologist. I miss BOLT!!!

Rob Meguid, BOLTer ’94, Leader ’95-’96, Steering Committee ’96

My wife and I have been in Denver for the past year and a half, where I’m a thoracic surgeon at the university of Colorado. We are currently pregnant with our first child, a daughter due in January. In the brief time we’ve been here, we’ve been enjoying the countless hikes, and knocking out a few 14ers.

Gabby Salazar, Class of ’09

On December 16th, she is flying to Indonesia to embark on a 35-day scientific expedition to a mountain in Central Kalimantan, Borneo. She is joining a team of British and Indonesian scientists as they conduct biodiversity surveys on an unstudied mountain called Gunung Bondang. They will be camping in hammocks for the duration and she will be serving as the expedition photographer. She will be writing about the trip at this link: http://blog.gabbysalazar.com/ or you can “Like” her Facebook page to follow along at www.facebook.com/gabbysalazarphotography.
ALUMNI UPDATES! (continued)
Rachel Brett, former BOLTer, Leader, Manager ’07

“I still lead trips with the students at the school where I work, and it all still seems so applicable!”

Ode to BOLT--A Day in the Life...
by Rachel Brett

I’m woken before the sun’s barely rose
By a beep and an assault on my nose
Five days in the woods with no shower
And I surely don’t smell like a flower
And crammed in to a tarp with nine friends
This odor upon me descends
But though my scent is quite foul
I just smile and pick up my trowel
And skip off to dig a nice hole
Using leaves as my TP roll
Then I skip back and take a big chug
From the congealed pasta water in my mug
All day long I hike with my pack
Weighing 300 pounds on my back
When we see other schools or groups
We all let loose with great whoops
And we’ve painted our faces with dirt
And we’ve painted our faces with dirt
And we’ve painted our faces with dirt
And we’ve painted our faces with dirt
And luckily no one’s real hurt
Though we’ve written 94 incident reports
And we’re sweating right through our shorts
And I don’t care what’s for dinner tonight
Because peanut butter goes with anything, right?
And our tarps and bear bags are so good
That all of the trees in the wood
Bow down to us in our splendor
And just before I surrender
To sleep, I think back and I smile
Because I’m livin’ it up, BOLT style!

Group L finds itself le scattered across the country,
but two group members report that their Group L
Love Bracelets/Anklets are still attached - see photo.

Other group members bathe more vigorously and their bracelets have thus fallen off. Chris Duffy is out in Long Island City, hosting and producing a great podcast called ‘You’re the Expert’. Scott Hochberg is studying law in Cambridge, MA and Tali Rozensher is consulting in New York City. Rebecca de Sa is working in food sustainability in Westchester County and Sarah Raifman is at a global health start-up in San Fran, where the burritos are supposedly better than those produced on our trip. Improbable, but not impossible. See you at our five-year in May!

Here’s a little update from the participants (or leader trainers? or hikers? leaders? what were we called?) from Group L, 2006.

Group L’s love bracelet and group photo!

Jessica Bearman, Participant
My husband, Chris Drummond (’93) and I moved to Idaho a year ago to a 40 acre property, where we have started to grow vegetables and fruit of all sorts. We’re having fabulous adventures with our two little boys, one puppy, nine chickens (eight hens and one comically aggressive rooster), as well as moose, porcupine, fox, deer, hawks, and assorted other exciting wildlife.

Jessica Bearman, son, and dog in Idaho

I am working for a small climate policy consulting firm in Washington DC, focused primarily on reducing tropical deforestation. Happy to connect with other alumni in the area!

Michael Wolosin, Class of ’95.5

I’m working for a small climate policy consulting firm in Washington DC, focused primarily on reducing tropical deforestation. Happy to connect with other alumni in the area!
This is a tale of open hearts, of fearless boys turned men
Who strap their lives to their backs, carry sticks in their hands
And wrap colored bandanas round their foreheads
In the crest of the mountains, still white in July
Where the trail meets creek and creek meets hiker
He plunges beneath the stream without thinking a thought
And brushes the law that binds all lone travelers
Don’t give yourself up, he says as he falls
Because then what will be left when I rise?
But emerges he does, as he shakes off the pearls
Of light and cold dew and sheer wonder
He leaves nothing behind, not a shirt, nor a sock
And returns to the ridge with his smoldering fire
The sun, as it shifts, plays with shadow by flame
And the boy sees girl with eyelids closed to the sparks
While the heat of the cinders leave her throat parched
He whispers hello and she croaks out her name

Then he smiles and nods unable to speak
No longer alone on this trail met deep in the south
He fumbles with what to do next
But maybe the boughs and the leaves had something to teach
To clutch at the transient, to lock arms with the limbs
But too many hours sunk in his skull
In his steps, in his breath, in the whisper of half-frozen mud
He is betrayed by his blink, and in smoke she is gone
So he gulps and he pines, tossed in his tent
Unwilling to sleep, unable to breath
In the morning at dawn, the silent girl still asleep
He scratches a note fast and true
Without pausing to think, he returns his life to his sack
And posts his untainted words to a tree
Before his toes touch the prints of yesterday’s steps
He lays out her name with twigs in the dirt
Like a sleeper, he walks to the place past the hill
Where creek meets trail and trail meets tomorrow
And that’s when he does what you’re not meant to do
When he leaves something behind in those words
Before she awakes, something churns in the air
As the dreamer, he leaves his number
For true love, call.
“Why We Do It” cont.

When the doors to Sam’s Club opened I gathered up the requisite items from my list in a Supermarket Sweep style frenzy, piled them all in the back of the Zipcar truck and returned to Arnold lounge. The night before I had sent an email to the BOLT mentors asking for help with the sorting process at noon. I managed to arrive back on campus at 11:45 and slowly began unpacking alone. I tried to review the Krebs Cycle in my head as I segregated the allergy group’s food. I wasn’t very good at either thanks to the lack of sleep and the cortisol running through my veins (read: I was very stressed).

It only took a little while for me to remember the most amazing thing about BOLT: the people. A mentor tapped me on the shoulder and took the heavy bags of M&Ms out of my arms. More and more people arrived. Someone brought me coffee and the majority found a moment to pull me aside and ask how I was doing. What else could they help me with? I was never on my own in the BOLT community.

I love to hike. The woods both relax and energize me. Hiking is why I signed up for BOLT, but it is not why I stayed. Everyone experiences the BOLT community in their own way. For me, my time with BOLT may be the most important part of my Brown education. I graduated this December and I’ve spent the last few weeks reflecting on Brown before I begin a new, exciting adventure with my job in Boston. BOLT gave me a space to learn about myself and about the way I relate to and work with other people. It also gave me a community of kind, engaged, intelligent, funny people whom I love.

I want to say thank you to everyone involved in BOLT. If it weren’t for you, this program would not be what it is, and it is a beautiful thing. Here’s to another 25 years.
It is wonderful in the New Year to reflect on the gifts in our life. I always feel grateful for the gift of BOLT friends and family. Thank you for your support, your friendship, your ideas and all the ways in which you have helped BOLT be a great program and great community space for students, Dean Rose and me.

I love hearing from our alums about how BOLT has provided skills that transcend into their careers. Along with hearing about adventures in the backcountry or having a “BOLT moment”, I enjoy hearing how BOLT has strengthened your ability for problem solving, teamwork and group facilitation skills and how these skills have made a world of difference.

I believe that along with learning important skills, one of the values that we commit to within the BOLT community is being good to people – a kindness and respect for others. It is wonderful to consider the ripple effect of this, and how it makes a difference in our relationships and in communities. It is amazing that two values centered on listening and kindness can shift our actions, our work, our experiences and our relationships.

One of my favorite quotes this past year was from Dean Rose during our Leader Retreat. She was teaching about feedback skills and the value of positive intent and approach. She shared one of her operational principles which is “I do not have the right to critique until I fulfill my responsibility to understand.” Each year as we go through our training program with our new leaders, it has served as a touchstone for reflecting on good leadership.

I want to take a moment to thank our leaders and managers who have supported and helped run this program, and to thank our family and friends who have supported us with financial gifts that help fill the significant annual funding gap in our budget. Without your support, we couldn’t make ends meet and we couldn’t offer financial aid to BOLT participants or leaders.

One special gift we receive this past year was a pledged gift honoring David Lubrano ’52 P’91. David was an avid outdoorsman and canoeist and all his children fully, deeply understand the value of wilderness based experiences.

David believed that students benefit from being introduced to the beauty of the wilderness and the lessons that can be learned through an experience like BOLT. Because of this gift from the Lubrano Family, we will have the funding that we needed for leader training this year. We had significant and unexpected cost increases for the Fall trip this past year due to changes in our transportation company (Conway Bus closed its charter service) and in other costs associated with our risk management practices. Once again, their support has come at a critical time for the program.

The trend of student interest in the program remains consistently high. Of the 210 applicants this past year, we are able to accommodate 121 sophomore, new transfer and new RUE students. Our leader applicant pool is consistently twice the size of our leader class. It is, both, a wonderful and difficult problem for our program and our eyes are set on expansion, even though our current financial state doesn’t allow for it. We are working on proposals to expand and strengthen the program and with hopes that this can be accomplished. We have five goals in mind:

1. Increase the number of student participants
2. Ensure the program is financially within the reach of all students by providing scholarships for those with significant financial need.
3. Strengthen program activities and leadership development opportunities.
4. Lower participant fees and certification costs for leaders.
5. Increase director-level staffing from a one-third position to a three-quarters role.

Continued on Page 7
Update from the BOLT Director (continued)
As we look towards the future, we are engaged in conversations with the University seeking support to allow us to raise our endowment to 2.3 million. We have a ways to go. As of June 30, 2013, our endowment had a book value of $338,266. This offers a usable yield of $21,126 annually in our operating budget. If you are interested in how you can help, please contact us. We hope that someday, the goals outlined above can become a reality. Many thanks for all of your support.

BOLT Word Jumble Answer Key

Get in touch with us!

Dear BOLT Managers,
I have a new address:

________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

*you may also submit updates online at brown.edu/bolt/alumni/updates

BOLT, Box 1930, Providence RI 02912

I would like to give a gift of
☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $500 ☐ $1000 ☐ other _______

to support BOLT in the following way:
☐ Current Use (scholarship & new gear)
☐ BOLT Endowment Fund

I have news to share!________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

You can also donate gear or donate through the REI Gift Registry! Visit brown.edu/BOLT/alumni/support

Update from founder and past director Robin Rose
Greetings to all my BOLT friends,

I hope that this finds you well and warm. We are certainly in the deep freeze here.

Life is good. I was able to spend four of the five days at Base Camp this year and was reminded once again of how much I love the program and the people who are part of it. The quality of the students is as wonderful as ever!

I had a great summer last year with close to 6,000 high school students here from all over the world, participating in pre-college programs. Kisa Takesue is now directing the Leadership Institute and is doing a great job. We recently hired someone to focus/direct our environmental programs and we have added two new courses since I last wrote. We now have a one week environmental lab in Louisiana studying the issues related to the gulf coast and this summer, I will take 25 students to Alaska to learn about the complex environmental and cultural issues related to natural resource extraction, climate change and fisheries. It is such a blessing to do this work.

On a personal level, Shirley and I had a fantastic two week trip to Yellowstone early this fall—-if you haven’t been there, you need to go. Oh my. The scary highlight was being very close to a male caribou during the rutting season!

I send my love to all. Shelley and crew continue to do such fantastic work. If we could just figure out how to get more of her time and endow the program, it would be great. Sending you a warm hug.

Dean Rose
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Alumni updates, BOLT reflections, poetry, photos, and even a BOLT word jumble! Enjoy, and don’t forget to keep in touch!