April, 2015

Dear Friends of BOLT,

Here it is, April in Providence, and the sun has started to show itself after a long and snow-laden winter. It is clearly high time to connect with our wonderful alumni!

Throughout 2014 and 2015, the BOLT Program has both held true to its tradition of excellence, and made some incredible strides towards the future of the program.

We had 16 successful and safe trips this fall, and a beautiful sunny week contributed to our enjoyment! Base camp was headed up by Dean Rose, Shelley, Cat Wallace, Mike Franklin, Jane Furey, Tom Miotke, Donald Bennett, and Hannah Mellion. They celebrated the safe trip with gourmet

Join us at commencement!

The annual BOLT commencement alumni reception will be held Saturday, May 23 from 5-7 pm at Machado House
This fall we planned two additional routes, giving us the ability to expand the program to 18 groups!

who served as mentors this spring, in order to fully capitalize on the experience within our program.

In January, we got to speak with many of you in our annual Phone-a-thon, and through your generosity, we were able to set a new record, with $7,020 raised!

Throughout the year, BOLT has been expanding its presence through leadership workshops. In the fall these are for the BOLTers, led by their leaders, and this spring they have been open to the larger Brown community, focusing on such topics as access to the woods, diversity in the woods, and women in the woods. These have been spearheaded by Zuleyka Marquez and Dana Goplerud—we are grateful to them for their commitment to making BOLT a space open to difficult and necessary discussions about the reality of access to the outdoors.

In mid-April, we completed 4 fabulous training trips on the AT in New Jersey. Temperatures were low, but all our mentors and leaders successfully stayed warm.

They are all back on campus, and we could not be more excited about the possibilities that this fall holds.

Much admiration and love,
Cat, Zuleyka, Jonah, & Alex
After two years of obsessional thought and intense ambivalence, I decided to retire at the end of this summer. Oh my, it is hard to even say those words!! I keep wondering how the heck I got old enough to do such a thing. Then I think about what a privilege it is to be old enough and financially able to do such a thing.

The decision was not so much to move away from what I was doing, but to move towards some things that I don’t have time to do when I am working so much. Shirley and I want to do some traveling before we get too old and tired to do it, I have a book project that I want to finish and I would love to have more time, energy and good health to hike. There are a few more big ones in the White Mountains that I would love to crawl my way up!!

I will continue to lead some programs/trips for my office of Summer Programs and hopefully be involved in some of the creative program development, This summer I will lead a group of 32 high school students on a trip to Alaska.

I will continue to volunteer for BOLT as that will always have a special place in my heart. Shirley and I are starting to think about the domestic trips we want to take and as we go, we will be looking up BOLT leaders throughout the country. Be prepared to have us knock on your door! What fun.

I am so incredibly grateful for the 34 wonderful years I have had at Brown. I never imagined that I would stay this long. I stayed because I loved my interactions with students and was lucky to have so many opportunities to be creative. So much fun along the way. I am hoping for a bit more fun, but much less responsibility.

Thank you for all you have given to the program, to me and to Shirley. We always say that our lives have been deeply enriched by our friendships with so many of you. Our home is always open to you and we hope to see many of you as we work our way around to all the national parks in the country. That is one of our goals!

I hope to see many of you at the BOLT reunion on Commencement weekend. I think of you often and with great affection and respect....would love to hear from you

Dean Rose

I am so incredibly grateful for the 34 wonderful years I have had at Brown.
Hello from Providence!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and beginning to enjoy the spring. The magnolias on the Main Green are starting to bloom, our new leader class has been matched into teams. It is amazing to witness and experience the life cycle of BOLT where each BOLT graduating class – our Mentors and Managers, welcome in new our leader class and then we welcome in our BOLTer class for the upcoming year.

Over the years, we have had and continue to have amazing people join hands to make and keep a the BOLT community experience strong and to pass the care and support forward.

Over the past two years, our steering committee conversations and efforts have focused on what we offer as “the BOLTer experience.” The themes that have come from this conversation have included mentorship, inclusivity, diversity and returning to the strength of our roots: being a source of support and community for our sophomores, new transfer and RUE students.

When our leaders and alums talk about what has made BOLT significant for them, they speak about feeling embraced by the community, about being able to share and be themselves with honesty in a way that is refreshing, about surviving through tough personal times, about being a part of something bigger than themselves and about the transferable skills that they have gained – skills that include the wilderness, but extend far beyond it in ways that help them be more successful in their personal and professional lives.

We have spent the last few years shifting what had become “our quick narrative” as we talk about the program. In our 10 second elevator pitches or “dorm stor” recruitment efforts, our recruitment posters and in other ways, we have featured and focused on our Fall Trip, because it is pretty special. This is the beginning of BOLT for each year.

We are a program that use the outdoors to “get to the people”; it is our canvas or medium for developing deeper connections. Our mission is much greater. Our job is to support and look out for one another on the trail and off.

The Fall Trip is significant as the “Shared Experience” that bonds our community together each year and it bonds our community across generations. It is not solely the trip that bonds us; it is the community itself that bonds us.

Our community travels from the trail to the campus greens, residence halls, and alumni reunions. There is a BOLT ethos that has remained constant over our 27+ years and it includes our core values for inclusivity, community, collaboration, a drive for excellence and leadership with strength, listening, critique with compassion, flexibility, adaptability and resilience. We embrace that BOLT is a space for support and self-authorship (becoming your best authentic self). For our alums, I imagine that this resonates with you; I hope it does. You helped make this program what it is today.

This year, I cannot believe that I am approaching my 10 year anniversary with BOLT (and Brown). Over reunion weekend, I look forward to seeing many of our 2005 and 2005.5 alums whom welcomed me into BOLT and supported me in my learning curve to begin to learn all things BOLT. It’s been an amazing 10 years and it has gone so fast! This community and the friendships that have developed from it continue to be a blessing. Thank you!!

~ Shelley Adriance
Vivamus vestibulum, lectus interdum dignissim rhoncus, nisi purus condimentum enim, vitae ultrices felis nibh id pede. Nam dictum lacinia diam. Pellentesque venenatis.

Our 2014 leader class, base camp, and Shelley!

--Photos from the trail--
All photos in the newsletter that are not from alumni are from our 2014 trip!
This is a space for life updates, “class notes,” and anything our alums wanted to share with each other.

We have BOLT alumni doing wonderful things across this country and across the world. We loved hearing your updates, and are excited to share them with the larger community!

David Flink, ‘02: I am super excited to share that I just published my first book, Thinking Differently, which is a guide for parents of kids with learning disabilities.

Benjamin Arfmann, ’07: I'm leaving tomorrow for a two week trip to Sitka, Alaska where I'll be directing a pilot that I wrote for the History Channel. The shoot is going to be a real adventure in and of itself - we'll be on location in the wilderness roughing it. While packing today I was running through my old BOLT gear check list. Directing this project isn't so different from leading a BOLT trip; it's funny how experiences echo forward. You never know when the training you receive while young will become relevant in your adult life.

Andrea Sassenrath, ’14: Me and an ole bolter of mine (Antonia Piccone) will be going on a weeklong backpacking trip in one month in the hills of Washington State.

Amy Williams-Derry, ’92.5: lives in Seattle with her family and is a securities/financial fraud litigator by day and a Jazzercise instructor by night.

Lydia Maier, ’94: I am the Dean of Student Affairs at Waynflete School and am excited to be getting back on the trail leading a course to Tibet for 3 weeks with Students Shoulder to Shoulder, a high school global citizenship school. I have had a lot of fun seeing how much outdoor gear has evolved since BOLT days- rain gear and sleeping pads are much improved since the days of sleeping on crazy creek chairs in the lean tos in spring (winter) weather. I took first time campers out on a 9th grade trip this fall, and found myself telling the story of Robin Rose reassuring new BOLTers that there were no bears in the area, while one was handily removing the food from the packs one early morning.
**Philip Lederer, ’03:** Excited to have a new addition to the family. My son, Joseph Lederer, was born in November. Hope everyone is well.

**Deborah Steinberg, ’04:** Emily Boness and Deborah Steinberg have been great friends ever since co-leading Group E in 2003, and this past summer we went on a glorious four-day canoe trip together in the Adirondacks. Here's a picture of our smiling faces to show you how much fun we had! When not paddling around lakes and rivers, Emily lives in Athens, GA, where she coordinates youth leadership programs throughout Georgia, and Deborah lives in NYC, where she helps run a college access program in East Harlem.

**Jeremy Jacob, ’12:** The most exciting event in my world is that I’m about to start a new job as a Product Manager at Lending Club, a peer-to-peer lender, after 2.5+ years at a non-profit lender, Mission Asset Fund. I’ve been enjoying the mild California weather out in San Francisco (but missing the rain and snow, for real!). Haven't gotten outdoors as much as I’d like recently but planning a trip to hike up the back of Half Dome in Yosemite in early summer. Hope leader training is going well for you all. Also, I'll be out at Brown for commencement weekend, looking forward to stopping by and saying hi!

**Tara Ramchandani, ’04:** is living in Washington, DC. Her time is spent working as a civil rights lawyer at Relman, Dane & Colfax and running around after my daughter Roopa, who will be 2.5 in May. Got to have dinner with fellow BOLT alum Kristin Sinclair a few months back.

**Nathaniel Wardwell, ’14:** I’m still teaching science in North Carolina and desperately looking forward towards my summer where I’ll be (fingers crossed) working at the US Whitewater training center and leading backpacking trips. If not that, then still frolicking outside and putting those BOLT skills to good use! And YES, I’ll be seeing everyone at commencement!

**Caroline J. Mailloux, ’07:** I led Team I in 2007 including Chaney Harrison, a RUE student joining Brown from the military. I am proud to announce that Chaney will be leading ME this time around - up Kilimanjaro in July 2015 with Solar Sister: [http://www.solarsister.org/mt-kilimanjaro-july-2015/](http://www.solarsister.org/mt-kilimanjaro-july-2015/) It's an epic climb for an epic cause - and so much of the trip is rooted in BOLT.
**Sarah (Braunstein) Woulfin, ’00**: currently lives in Connecticut and is an assistant professor of Educational Leadership at UConn. Last summer, she went camping on Lake Champlain with her husband and then-11 month son, Toby. She's excited to attend the BOLT reunion on campus in May!

**Chris Page, ’91**: is Global Director of Energy & Sustainability Strategy at Yahoo. She lives in San Francisco with her wife, Jennifer Mayer ’91, and their two sons, ages 4 and six months. She writes, "Just yesterday our four year old told us a story about camping, making a campfire and roasting marshmallows with Captain Hook... so it would seem that we're doing something right!"

**Dan Newman, ’91**: is celebrating his 10th year of running MapLight, the nonprofit he started that reveals money and influence in U.S. politics. Dan lives in Berkeley with his wife Belinda and two young daughters. Lately he has been enjoying commuting around town by electric-assist cargo bike!

**Allie Silverman, ’05**: Works on international climate change policy and human rights in DC. In the BOLT spirit, she continues to seize any opportunity she can to frolic in the great outdoors. It looks like she is going to be in town for graduation this year, and hopes to reconnect with BOLT friends!

**Dave Cade, ’02**: After teaching high school math for six years in and near San Francisco, I went back to graduate school at OSU for a master’s in oceanography. Now I’m working on a PhD back in the bay area where I get to spend my time studying lunge-feeding whales. I like to think about it as BOLT + trigonometry, so it's a pretty perfect fit for me. If anyone's ever in SF, hope to hear from you! -Dave Cade (david_cade@alumni.brown.edu)

PS  Attached are a couple of pictures of me looking scruffy in front of Mt. Everest last spring!
**Barbara Petersen ’10**: I hope everyone is doing well! I can't believe it has been five years since I graduated! I live in Denver, Colorado with my fiancé Chris and our dog Buddy. We love living in Denver and enjoy hiking and backpacking in the summer and skiing and snowshoeing in the winter in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. I am working as a social worker for a non-profit that provides scholarships and holistic support services to economically disadvantaged kids to attend middle school, high school and college called The Challenge Foundation. I am also currently attending the University of Denver for my Masters degree in Social Work. Life is good and busy! I am hoping to make it out to Providence for my five year reunion in May and would love to see some BOLT alums there.

**Avi Kenny ’11 (BOLT ’09)**: Been fighting Ebola in Liberia with Last Mile Health.

**Laine Shapiro Lipsky ’93**: spends as much time outdoors as she can in her new hometown of San Antonio, TX. She's enjoying a slow-paced life with her husband, 2 kids, and 1 cat.

**Michael Pastore ’13**: I’m still working in Chicago at DigitasLBi in Account Management, but the more exciting bit of news (for me, anyways) is that I’m about to make a career transition into web/mobile app development, still at Digitas here in Chicago. Other than that I grew out my winterbeard to battle the Chicago cold, but that's something that East Coasters are feeling just as much I hear.

**Paul Cooke**. (Head Coach of Men’s Crew -- BOLT ’89): Great to see BOLT still going strong. One of our sophomores, Anand Rajesh ’17, is planning to be a leader next September.

**Michael Leuchtenberger ’92**: I currently serve as the minister of a Unitarian Universalist congregation in Concord, NH. The last week of February I got to take 15 members of our youth group (high school age) to Nicaragua. The small group processing of our experience of living and working with families in Managua and La Paz brought back memories of my time as a BOLT leader in 1989 and 1990. Being out of our comfort zones can be such an opportunity for growth - provided there is leadership that can help create a safe space for reflection. I feel BOLT helped prepare me well for co-creating such a space for our youth.

**Jessica Bearman** (BOLT participant 1991 and BOLT leader 1992, 1993): I live with my husband, Chris Drummond (Brown ’93), two wild boys, one industrious dog, and a flock of happy chickens on a 40 acre farm in northern Idaho. This year, we’ll be getting bees and continuing to grow organic vegetables for our own enjoyment and to sell to our community. Come visit us on the Palouse any time! My own work, consulting with grantmakers to help them be more effective and responsive to communities, takes me across the US and occasionally abroad.
**Rachael Miller ’93:** Hello BOLT community, I am using all the skills I picked up as a BOLT Leader and member of the Brown Sailing Team as co-founder and Executive Director of Rozalia Project for a Clean Ocean. We are an environmental organization whose mission is to protect the ocean and conserve a healthy, thriving marine ecosystem. Rozalia Project’s focus is on marine debris and the overexploitation of forage fish. We operate from the (amazing) 60’ sailing research vessel, American Promise with an expedition base in Kittery, ME working along the NE coast from NYC to Downeast Maine. We have volunteer opportunities available onboard this summer - no sailing experience required, you just need to love the ocean and be excited and ready to clean it, study it, inspire people to take better care of it and protect it! Connect with us at rozaliaproject.org, email me: rachael@rozaliaproject.org or find us on social media!

**Ben Winkler,’12:** Last year decided to abandon my stalled post-graduation identity search and shake things up a little. joined the military as an army medic (enlisted, not officer), and 10 months later I'm now tasked with taking care of a platoon of infantrymen in Hawaii. we just got back from a two-week "field training exercise" (read "camping trip"), that sort of reminded me of BOLT camping, albeit it with more weapons and blander attire. I'll attach a photo that was taken earlier this week. in the longer term, I'm hoping to commit to the medical field in the next few years by having the army send me to med school (for freeeeeeee).

**Maya Chay,’13:** This is BOLT Group F, class of 2013, with a 0.5-er or two: Devin Finzer, Zach Rowe, Cody Shulman, Maya Chay, Giulia Basile, Amanda Lee, and Lauren Youngsmith. It's been almost five years since our original trip, and we’ve stayed pretty darn close. Our BOLT network has kept us connected from Alaska to California, Boston to Ohio and Washington State. Whenever we reunite, we reminisce about...
- The night we literally spilled the beans along a riverbed, and then ate pebbly burritos for dinner, in true LNT form.
- BOLT's first [and only?] Type IV evac via bicycle and Stellaaaaa's lost eyes.
- Our two favorite movies: Norbit and Thanskilling.
Since graduation, in some form or another we have united in Alaska to commercial fish with Maya, traveled to Mexico, met up in Berkeley to hear the Avett Brothers, rendezvoused for breakfast in Burnville, Ohio, hung out at Burning Man, and gone on a month-long road trip from Chicago southward to Louisiana. In February. During the Polar Vortex. Camping, of course.
**Brook Achterhof,’14.5:** Living in Australia, so if anyone (besides Emily Wilkins who I know I'm seeing soon!) is headed to the land down under, shoot me a message. I'll be in the Newcastle/Sydney area until June and then Melbourne from September-December. Just a brief interlude in Chile leading a teen leadership and service trip during the summer. Always down to find an adventure with fellow BOLT friends!

**Tod Guren,’96:** Thanks for the alumni outreach. Here is a picture of my 6 year old, Joel, on top of mt Hamilton which is in WA in the Columbia gorge. Mt hamilton was a 7 mile hike with 2000 feet elevation gain so our plan to train Joel as a future mountain climber is going well. I live in Portland, OR with my wife, Joel, and Arlo our 2 year old. I work as a director of product development in health insurance at the local blue cross blue shield. I still use my bolt training on climbs of nearby peaks. Glad the program is still going strong.
Ravi Prasad ‘05: After seven years of working in higher and non-profit education, Ravi started working as an innovation consultant three years ago to find new avenues to help others. He still finds time to hike whenever he can, including sneaking out to the Blue Hills of Greater Boston at night, or trying to sneaker hike in New Hampshire when conditions are no longer ripe for doing so. He hopes to see other BOLTers soon.

Brendan Foley ‘91: I'm currently a Divisional Vice President in the Online Business Unit at Sears in Chicago. I lead a team focused on the definition and execution of new e-commerce experiences for consumers on Sears.com / Kmart.com, and also manage a couple of our e-commerce businesses. I'd welcome the opportunity to hear from folks in the Class of 1991 or other prior Bolt alumni if they come through Chicago.

Rob Meguid ‘97 MD’02: I am now a cardiothoracic surgeon at the University of Colorado in Denver. My wife, Cheryl, and I just celebrated our daughter, Natalie's 1st birthday. We are fortunate to live in close proximity to amazing hiking and snowboarding. Attached is a photo of Natalie's second hike, up a fire lookout tower in the foothills of the Rocky mountains. She hasn't done any 14ers yet, maybe this summer she can come with me up a few. Any local BOLTers or those headed to Denver should drop me a line at robert_meguid@yahoo.com.

Jim Lerch ‘03: It's always nice to hear from BOLT. That was one of the highlights of my time at Brown. I'll just provide a quick update. I recently started a new job for a Chinese internet tv company (Youku Tudou Inc) based in Shanghai, China. I work on the business development team. Prior to this I worked for the U.S. State Dept. I'd love to see if there are other BOLT alums in my neighborhood (China), and it would be fun to reconnect with Dean Rose and the SAIS community at large.