A Letter from Dean Rose

Greetings to All My Good BOLT Friends,

Wow, you wouldn’t believe all the good stuff this organization is doing! Shelley, the Managers and Steering Committee are moving along with record levels of leader applications, the annual phon-a-thon, solid changes in leader training and a weekend full of anniversary events over Commencement. I am so impressed by all of their creativity.

As for me, the work I am doing with the Leadership Institute continues to be very fulfilling. In six years we have grown from 66 students to 350 and the high school students who participate are doing meaningful work in their home communities. I am grateful to have this opportunity.

I just returned from a very moving trip to New Orleans. I cannot believe the scope of the damage. It is a profound example of institutionalized racism. As I walked through block after block of deserted neighborhoods I was overcome. I spent five days meeting with people, hearing their stories and seeing the impact of the flooding. I am working with many community partners there to develop a leadership program for high school students and am hopeful that we can get something off the ground.

Please plan to come to the BOLT 20th Anniversary celebration in May! It would be so wonderful to see you and celebrate all of the important friendships, the work and the success of the program. I am truly looking forward to connecting with many of you. I hope to talk with you when we have our phon-a-thon in January.

Remember when you see “Brown University” on your caller I.D. on January 23 and 24, it’s BOLT calling! Hope all is well. I think of you often and with love,

Robin

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Looking for past BOLT leaders’ whereabouts? Check out our website!

http://brown.edu/students/BOLT
A Letter from the BOLT Director

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and with much happiness. We love receiving notes, cards and emails from you all.

This year is a special year for BOLT. Twenty Years! Welcoming in the leader class was exciting and had a special sentiment this year. At the leader retreat, Dean Rose shared with the new leader class how special a moment and achievement this was for BOLT.

BOLT has been and continues to be a community effort of BOLT Leaders, alumni and parents -- all coming together to provide the opportunity and experiences for the incoming leader and BOLTer class. BOLT would not have the impact it has on student’s lives, the strength to endure fiscals challenges or the sustainability of spirit, if it were not for the commitment of each of you. I feel privileged to be a part of this community, and it is all of you that make BOLT so special.

One of my favorite annual experiences with BOLT is the pre-trip meeting in Sayles. As you know, this is a day where a million things are going on and an amazing amount of problem-solving occurs -- all in the effort to launch 160 people into the wilderness. Every time I turn to my base camp team, a solution arose, a helping hand was there and the excitement of seeing all the work come together fueled my enthusiasm all the more.

We are continuing to build the fall program calendar of events and are excited by the small group activities and connections that creates a network of support for our BOLTers. It has been wonderful to hear how the program has helped so many people.

These stories and experiences couldn’t happen without the generous donations that we receive to keep us going. How do I even begin to explain how much your support means? Thank you for passing BOLT forward!

BOLT Director extraordinaire, Shelley Adriance.

Save the Dates and Come Celebrate 20 Incredible Years of BOLT at Commencement 2008!

Friday, May 23, 2008
BOLT Campus Dance Table
Saturday, May 24, 2008
5-7pm, BOLT Reunion/Commencement Reception
10pm-1am, BOLT PARTY!!
Sunday, May 25, 2008
Group Hike?!

Don’t get left out! Visit our planning blog to keep up on the latest event details:

boltalums.com

The BOLT Managers: Binny, Liz, Kate, and Ben.

Binayak Mishra
Trailname: iPaded
Talent: capacity to eat mucho

Elizabeth Schibuk
Trailname: Gecko
Talent: splitting apples in half with her bare hands

Catherine Pearson
Trailname: Flamingo
Talents: splitting rain pants in half

Benjamin Salvina
Trailname: Bananas
Talents: trowel naming, hiking slowly

Greetings from the BOLT Managers!

This year marks BOLT’s 20th birthday and we are all more than proud to be BOLT’s 20th manager team. The fall semester was a series of Year-Round-Program adventures for both the managers and the BOLT program as a whole.

Thanks to all the discussions from last year on what we want to see in the future of BOLT, we were all ready to put into motion some new events and activities.

The first was our Leader Reunion Cooking-Fest. Thanks to our wonderful hosts at Finlandia Co-op, we got together almost all of the Fall 2007....
Find full text of all of these stories at: http://students.brown.edu/BOLT

Update on OLEEP by Katie Clark

“Now I see the secret of making the best person, it is to grow in the open air and eat and sleep with the earth.”  
- Walt Whitman

These words, imprinted on BOLT tee shirts from years past, but originally those of Walt Whitman, speak to the very essence of OLEEP. OLEEP (Outdoor Leadership Experiential Education Project) strives to cultivate a sense of environmental consciousness in Providence’s urban youth, exposing students to natural beauty and open air. Through a joint effort to understand the issues behind today’s most pressing environmental concerns, outdoor trips throughout the year, the development of leadership and communication skills through group and one-on-one activities OLEEP hopes to foster a sense of community and a sense of self, in relation to the natural world.

Send us updates!
Keep in touch with all the past BOLTers. The Alumni Directory is now entirely online, so send us word about what you’re up to.
Email BOLT@brown.edu.

Food Preparation Mayhem
by Julia Beamesderfer

Food. It’s arguably the best part of a BOLT Trip. So naturally, when I became a summer manager, I asked to be in charge of compiling the meals for the upcoming fall excursion. Perhaps it was the idea of spending thousands of dollars in the supermarket that was enticing, or maybe it was the thought of being able eat all of the leftover morsels during the repacking process. Either way, when none of my trusty co-managers wanted the task, I couldn’t understand why. It didn’t take me long to realize that, unlike my own naive self, they probably had some foresight.

BOLT and New Orleans
by David Perlmutter

At the suggestion of my BOLT co-leader, Matt Hassett, I joined him and thirteen others this winter break on a week-long volunteering trip in New Orleans. Through the United Methodist Church East Bank Recovery Center we worked to finish a house that had been gutted after being flooded by Hurricane Katrina. Our large group crowded into the bare house each day. It was half-filled with supplies and stacked, unused furniture waiting to be arranged. We plastered, sanded and painted the walls and ceilings, put up chipboard and weeded the back lawn.

A BOLT Love Affair
by Maureen Suhendra

It started three years ago. After that first time eating a handful of GORP, learning the amazing properties of polypropylene first-hand, and feeling the euphoria of positive bombardment, I knew I was in love. I never expected to feel such warmth and exhilaration with a group of strangers on that first training trip.

Leadership Skills, Bowhunting Skills, Interviewing Skills by Elizabeth Gilbert

Since becoming a senior, I have been applying for jobs, fellowships, and all of that responsible, grown-up stuff, which requires a lot of resume reviewing. One of the things listed on my resume is BOLT Summer Manager. In a recent interview, the prospective employer noticed this and asked what skills the job required. And I thought, well, bowline-tying skills, tarp-folding skills and a lot of “creative thinking,” which sounded vaguely professional, and not like something from Napolean Dynamite.

How to Donate to BOLT:
1. Go to http://www.gifts.brown.edu/
2. Choose either to submit a financial gift on-line via the secure site or print out a form to mail.
3. Be sure to check-off the “Other” category and list “BOLT Endowment Fund” for your gift.
4. In the Comment section at the bottom of the form, you please re-emphasize your gift to BOLT. If you don’t specify, your pledge will go into the general gifts category.
Dear BOLT Managers,
I have a new address:

______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

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 may also submit updates on-line at Brown.edu/students/bolt/alumni

BOLT, Box 1930, Providence, RI 02912