A Letter from Dean Rose

Warm greetings to all BOLT folks,

I certainly hope that this great newsletter finds you well, happy and safe.

This has been a time of transition for BOLT and the program is doing very well. Shelley Adriance arrived this summer and her enthusiasm and skill are great assets to this community. We had a real adventure in August with the remnants of Hurricane Katrina dumping about 6 inches of water in a day. It was a test for the leaders, the participants and base camp. There was some pretty intense problem solving going on and the base camp staff were in the thick of it. It was well done.

The program is in good hands. Shelley and the steering committee are working very hard on the AEE re-accreditation. This process is essential to our risk management responsibilities. It is a ton of work, but Shelley and Ryan Heath are on top of it.

For the past two years BOLT has been part of the Student Activities Office and thus, Ricky Gresh, the Director of Student Activities has been a key person for the program. I want you to know that Ricky has been very supportive of and engaged with BOLT. Last year he took the time to learn as much as he could about the program and this summer he worked on our behalf to secure a new equipment room space. He has been our advocate with budgetary issues and most importantly, he really supported Tommy and now Shelley in their work with the group. The combination of Shelley’s expertise and enthusiasm and Ricky’s support is impressive to me.

Please stay in touch with BOLT and continue to support it in any way that you can. Alumni giving is essential to the sustainability of the program. This is an experience that has made a difference in your lives; your help makes the continuation of it possible.

I always love to hear from you.

Hugs to all,

Dean Rose

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

students.brown.edu/BOLT
Hello from Providence – my new home and one that was yours for many years! I’m in the middle of my first year as the new BOLT director. My excitement for my new position is still spilling over. This is truly my dream job – combining my interests in leadership, student development and the outdoors. After 9 years of working in Residence Life, it was time to shift toward what I truly wanted – outdoor leadership. So, I began with lots of whitewater kayaking lessons (so fun), took a month-long NOLS course in the Sonoran Desert, then took the leap into a year-long, sabbatical for a full-time outdoor leadership program at Greenfield Community College. My family thought I was crazy, but it paid off! It got me here.

It’s amazing to be here and to work with such a great group. Dean Rose continues to be an amazing source of support and knowledge for us. Her commitment to the BOLT community is as strong as ever. I feel fortunate to have become a part of a strong community of leaders, administrators and alums who have really shaped this program and the BOLT community to be vibrant, caring, and ever seeking to become even better.

This year is an accreditation year for us. Ryan Heath has been a huge help and the process has been both affirming and challenging. Our experiential education focus continues to deepen as does our safety system.

The AEE accreditation process also means that not only did I have the privilege of starting my first year here with sending 160 students out into a hurricane, but everything is under review – top to bottom!

Hot off the press is that the revised accreditation standards now include our leaders being Wilderness First Responder trained! WFR has become the standard for the industry. One nice thing is that the certification lasts for three years and opens doors for our leaders to jobs in the field. All around, we win, but we’ll need to find a way to fund it! It’ll cost us an additional $10,000 to go from a two-day Wilderness First Aid training to an eight-day WFR training this year.

On a final but important note, our budget relies on our ability to raise money annually through alumni donations. We need your help and appreciate any that you can offer. Each year we must raise approximately $10,000 from parents, alumni and friends to contribute to the operating budget. Our endowment now has $112,000 in it! We are a third of the way to our goal of creating the financial base of support we need! Amazing! We truly appreciate the continued support of our alums! Without you, BOLT could not survive.

Please keep in touch. We love to hear from our alums!
Best wishes,
-Shelley Adriance

Meet YFBMs!

The BOLT Managers: Ryan, Nayla, Andrew, Becky, and Maureen.

Ryan Heath (The Awkward Chaperone)
Trailname: Daddy
Talents: Growing cancer, making cashew brittle.

Nayla Khoury (Hobbes)
Trailname: Koala
Talents: Ties cherry stems un-sexily, Taboo.

Andrew McAleavey (The World’s Tiniest Gorilla)
Trailname: Rafiki
Talents: War, the card game.

Becky Tillson (Winnie the Pooh)
Trailname: Jesse (from Saved by the Bell)
Talents: Whistling through my ears.

Maureen Suhendra (Mermaid)
Trailname: “This one time, in Hawaii...”
Talents: Chunk checking.

A Letter from the BOLT Managers

Hello to you all from the BOLT office!
This semester has been an absolute BOLT whirlwind – nonstop events and planning, changes in the program coming from within as well as from outside. As usual the changes are all in the right direction, and we’re looking forward to next semester for another round of trainings!

BOLT Director extraordinaire, Shelley Adriance.
Base Camp Blues by James Tierney
I had heard about the BOLT base camp before the trip even started. I knew that some of my friends, leaders from years past, were going to be at Base Camp. During retraining, they wore the light blue shirts, different from our green ones. I had no idea what happened at base camp, but I imagined it was something like Club Med. I was graduating at the end of the year and imagined I’d never unlock the secrets of base camp. If I had only known!

The First Night by Greta Pemberton
The first day of our trip, my co-leader threw up. Let it be known, Cindy is a bona fide trooper. This girl, growing more ashen-faced with every few hundred feet we climbed, was smiling as best she could. “Could we stop, by chance?” she’d call up to the leader of the pack. We’d stop, she’d ralph in a blueberry bush, she’d say she felt much better, and we’d move along.

My first introduction to BOLT was just over three and a half years ago, a quiet first-year mixed up in the BOLT craziness filling Sayles Hall wall-to-wall, not really sure what I was about to get myself into. Seven BOLT trips, two years as a student manager, 3 leader classes and half an accreditation later, I’m still lost in all the craziness of BOLT; I’m still not entirely sure what exactly I have got myself into, but I’m pretty happy about it.