

Bandstand



*The Official Alumni Newsletter
of the
Brown University Band
Winter 2016*

Bandstand

Brown Band Alumni Newsletter

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

Happy New Year to you all! I cannot be more excited for the Alumni Liaisons, Abby Muller '16, Isabella Martinez '17, Cassie Cole '18, and the newest addition to the team, Tim Peltier '19, to present to you this newsletter, on which they worked so long and hard.

I admit, I'm somewhat amused at the prospect of coming at this newsletter from the other side. For those who don't know me, my name is Caleb Hersh '17, the new President of the Brown University "We <3 Friends and Alumni" Band. I'm a junior concentrating in political science, and if you've been counting, I'm now the third President in four years who has transitioned to my current role directly from being an Alumni Liaison. I hope that—much like my predecessor President-AL crossovers Sidney Karesh '16 and Carrie Danielson '14—you know through the experience of interfacing with me that I believe keeping alumni involved with the Band adds so much to the richness of our organization. Not everything, of course, is same-old-same-old. I am the first President in recent memory to hail from the trumpet section (did somebody say

play louder?), and am very happy to have ended the tyranny of not-trumpets over the Band. I promise not to abuse my power *too* much to have the Band play only "Joshua" from now on. I'll allow a couple other songs too.

My priority for the Band this year is inclusion. I am principally in the Band because it has been such a welcoming place for me. I've always referred to it as "my first and favorite club". This year, we aim to ask, on an institutional level, whether that sentiment is the case for every Brown student that experiences the Band or wishes to do so. The task of making the Band a more inclusive place is going to, at times, present few easy solutions, and will take time and effort. Moreover, it will take a lot of collective wisdom and input. You, alumni, are welcome to take part in this ongoing conversation. Each of you is a part of Band history. We are impelled to own our history. In some cases, we even need to own up to it. Please help us engage in this institutional learning process.

Your support of the Band is recognizable in tangible as well as intangible ways. It was an alumni donation that was responsible for the purchase of our new sweaters that will be a part of the Band uniform for years to come. It is the great turnout of alumni at Band events—such as the Harvard or URI games this past semester, the alumni ice show (coming up February 6th!), or commencement (May 27th-29th!)—that demonstrates to the Brown and Providence communities our vibrancy as a group. I cannot find words to express my gratitude for the positive outreach and generous contributions of everything from time to money to archival material that I have seen from you over the last year-and-a-half. This newsletter is the continuance of our unwavering commitment to connecting the current Band to those who have had the opportunity be a part of its long history of music and merriment. "The happiest moments of youth's fleeting hours" may pass quickly, but membership in the Brown Band family is for life.

If you have any questions, concerns, or requests for us, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or to any of the ALs.



Ever True,
Caleb Hersh '17

Spring Season Preview

Fri. 1/29—7 PM—RPI—M. Hockey

Sat. 1/30—8 PM—Penn—M. Basketball

Fri. 2/5—7 PM—Harvard—M. Hockey

Sat. 2/6—7 PM—Dartmouth—M. Hockey
ALUMNI ICE SHOW!!!

Fri. 2/12—7 PM—Harvard—W. Basketball

Sat. 2/13—4 PM—Colgate—W. Hockey
Themed Ice Show!!

Fri. 2/19—7 PM—Clarkson—M. Hockey

Sat. 2/20—7 PM—St. Lawrence—M. Hockey

Fri. 2/26—7 PM—@Quinnipiac—M. Hockey
Winter Trip, Day 1

Sat. 2/27—7 PM—@Princeton—M. Hockey
Winter Trip, Day 2

Sat. 3/5—6 PM—Cornell—W. Basketball

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND — Saturday, 5/28 – Sunday, 5/29



Football Season Wrap-Up

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Alumni,
presenting an organization that's been to
Boston and Hanover, it's the BROWN
UNIVERSITY "AT LEAST WE BEAT
COLUMBIA^2" BAND FOOTBALL SEASON
WRAP-UP!!*

By Abby Muller '16 and Tim Peltier '19

Game 1: Brown (16) vs. Bryant (20)

The Brown Band made a triumphant return to the field after an unproductive, yet nonetheless exciting, summer of cliché beach activities and desperate longing to once more perform "Ever True" in front of a roaring crowd. Our first game of the season, we introduced our wide-eyed freshmen to the wonder that is BAAAAAANNND (it is still uncertain whether their predominant emotion was fear or excitement, we prefer to assume the latter). In honor of our guests Bryant, who so generously sold us the luxurious pleasure palace that is Perkins back in '69, we took a tip from their book and quite literally "brought down the house" on the field. Although the football team went down in defeat, the Band was able show off our renowned grace and sophistication with our formation of an elegant "vase".

Script Themes: Summer; Bryant's former home in Providence alongside Brown, purchase of Perkins, collapsing buildings; Freshmen; the notorious and unrivaled sex drive of Brown University students



Game 2: Brown (27) @ Harvard (53)

Our first away game took us just an hour up the road to "a school near Boston." Having bonded at Haffenreffer the previous Sunday, we were ready to put on a show for the many beloved recent crusties that came to the game. We know we outperformed the Harvard Band, who put on an especially weird show involving pushing Donald Trump around on a platform and firing their gun into the air so many times our khakis are still grass-stained from falling. The football team may have lost, but the band always wins.

Script themes: Harvard students' thoroughly underwhelming sex lives; the deeply upsetting closing of Yogurtland, "holy place" (real quote) of Harvard students; the Ig Nobel awards



Game 3: Brown (41) vs. URI (31)

While it is an obvious truth that the Brown Band *always* wins, the game against URI marked the first time this season our football team earned themselves a victory to match our glory. It could not have been a more auspicious day. Not only was the game the prestigious Rhode Island Governor's Cup, but it was also and more importantly our alumni show, the real reason why the football team won! Together with our alumni friends ("You're so ooooooldaaaa") we scrambled across the field and, for old times' sake, engaged

in our typical shenanigans. Who would have imagined that such a battle of epic proportions could take place in a state as small as Little Rhody? It came as no surprise when our mighty Bear squashed the University of Rhode Island Ram.

Script Themes: Alumni-written script! Alums; time travel; URI and their dubious efforts to foster student-campus police relations with segways; Belinda the Brown Student, who is saved from the nefarious romantic interests of a URI student by a time-traveling Brown Band

Game 4: Brown (25) @ Holy Cross (24)

For some reason, we weren't allowed at this one. Here is an image of this year's button, with which Holy Cross students will sadly never get to adorn their cassocks.



Game 5: Brown (38) vs. Princeton (31)

We began the day of our Family Weekend game bright and early with an 8 am musical trek across campus. Reminding our fellow Brunonians just how wonderful it is to be woken up early by Mom and Pop, we showed no restraint in kazooing outside their windows and down their hallways. Their earnest appreciation was evident in their slammed windows and brusquely closed curtains. The wakeup call paid off, though; the stadium was filled with fans and their parents cheering on Bruno. After a triumphant win over Princeton, the Band reunited with our best frenemies in the Princeton Band to perform in the center of the field.

Script Themes: Family Weekend, desperately hoping our parents will do our laundry; the forbidden romance between the Brown and Princeton Band, Princeton's seasonally appropriate uniforms, the Princeton drinking contest of "Newman's Day"

Game 6: Brown (44) @ Cornell (24)

We did a campus march and hung out with the statue of Ezra Cornell! Personally, this was our favorite field show of the season. Here are the rules ~~the big red fascists~~ Cornell gave us for our script: "No profanity, no sexual references, no degrading comments about Cornell, team, fans, alumni, or city, and no rambling on just to make a point." Here's an excerpt from our script (after they vetoed our first one, which was about censorship): "[Our script] contains a few of our favorite elements that always make for a winning script. A. Clean language—gotta be appropriate for the kids! B. Chastity. C. Only positive comments about this school, team, fans, alumni, and the beautiful city of Ithaca. D. Concise prose that has no point whatsoever. E. Bears, and F. THE PRINCETON BAND!"

We also played their A*ma M*ter in a minor key and pretended to be zombies.

P.S. Ann Coulter went to Cornell.

Script theme: What an absolutely beautiful city.



Game 7: Brown (28) vs. Penn (48)

The spookiest game of the year: Halloween!!!! The Brown Band, ever so talented, deblazed and transformed into a monstrous horde of teletubbies, Peanuts characters, puns, mimes, Lady Gagas, and most terrifying of all: Parents. Taking the field in the form of a ghost to the theme of *Ghostbusters*, we easily scared the wits out of the Penn Band! Although the football team may have lost, at least we have the satisfaction of knowing that Donald Trump is an alum of Penn instead of Brown.

Script Theme: "Spook-tober", Ghosts, Ghostbusters, Our favorite sexy costumes; Cornell's censorship in our previous game, their lack of appreciation for our jokes about Ann Coulter; Donald Trump; Penn's waste of perfectly good toast

Game 8: Brown (14) @ Yale (41)

We returned to the Yale Bowl, which had been spruced up with some new paint since our last visit but was still essentially a giant toilet. Also, the Yale football team kicked us off our practice field (meaning we had to leave behind the huge rubber ball we'd been playing with/climbing on/falling off of/breaking our toes on). Still, we got some quality pizza, played with the Yale Band after the game, and generally had a great day!



Script themes: Yale students' OKCupid-ranked sex lives; the Ivy Campus Snapchat Story, creator of fame in our modern age; Columbia, the worst team in the Ivy League, beat Yale at football

Game 9: Brown (18) vs. Dartmouth (41)

The last home game of the season, and easily the most emotional, the Band tributed our outgoing seniors with the ritual of "Bits & Pieces". Although not gone yet (FOUR MORE YEARS!!!!), we honored each and every one of them with a clever limerick and the formation of a celebratory champagne glass. Meanwhile, we attempted to fend off the provincial lumberjacks of Dartmouth, only to embrace them for who they are and perform together in the aftermath of the game.

Script Themes: Champagne, Limericks, and Lots of Tears

Game 10: Brown (28) @ Columbia (23)

This was (for a change!) a Friday night game! What a great last game of the season, and last football game for our seniors. We had our Band Board changeover at halftime and celebrated the outgoing, the incoming, and the fantastic season that was fall 2015.

Script themes: Faking it; lists of lists; "favorite song, favorite form"; it's the end of the season and we're out of ideas so ¯_(ツ)_/¯ .



Fall 2015 in Pictures

Compiled by Isabella Martinez



Company, Salute! Traditional Low Brass tunnel to the stadium



*Care for some French Toast, Monsieur Head
Conductor?*



Cadencing all the waaayyy...



Watching the game?





Reigning Tug-of-War Champions!



Sweet Caroline



Proud Brown Band parents join us for the Family Weekend, early morning wake-up call



The band poses for a picture for the Mayor's office during the annual Tree-Lighting Ceremony



We'll miss our Seniors!



Bandquet 2015



And all the dresses and skirts too!



Formal Low Brass Pyramid



Presidents: Old and New



Friendly Flute Fun



The Class of 2016!

Freshman Testimonials

Following the tradition created in last year's winter Bandstand (if we do it twice, it's a tradition, right?), this year we are pleased to bring you THREE fresh "freshtimonials"!

Samuel Frolichstein-Appel '19

My high school band experience went downhill as the four years progressed. By the time I got into Brown, I was not too excited about the concept of marching band. However, I'm also the kid who, as a middle schooler, wanted to go to Stanford because of their band (I maintain that they only seem better because they have a respectable athletic program, and we still did it first. Also, sanctions). I showed up at the first Brown Band rehearsal as a skeptic, and left as a believer.

The two feelings that were overwhelmingly present throughout the first semester were confusion — what do we do now? How does that song go? Wait, I thought our form was Wonderbread, not a penis! ...oh... WHAT ON EARTH ARE WE SINGING ON THIS BUS RIDE AND WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO IT THE WHOLE TIME? — and belonging. Despite the strange traditions, abysmal teams, and endless time commitment, I know I have found my place at Brown.

As the semester continued, I had a few epiphanies: First, I found that, although my first semester was at times rough, I could always look forward to Band stuff – be it games, rehearsals, parties, or spontaneous trips to Jo's. In fact, the only time I ever got FOMO (fear of missing out, for those not still in college) was when I had to miss Band events. Second, tradition and laziness are quite similar — yes, percussion could learn some sick new cadences or cheers, but we like the ones we have! Third, I made the right choice in going to Brown, as evidenced by the variety of incredible, funny, and smart people in the Band. And last, there is nothing better than a large amount of drummers playing very loudly together in an enclosed space. Rimshots forever!

Isabela Karibjanian '19

I came to ADOCH as undecided as one could possibly be. Panicked about not knowing where I would spend the next four years of my life, I spent much of my time writing pro-con lists and incessantly comparing each aspect of Brown to its top contender. This all changed when I first encountered the Brown Band.

Fascinated by the buttons that poked fun at the other Ivies and by a marching style that involved The Muppets theme song and spinning around, I instantly felt at ease just being in the Band's presence. Once I returned from ADOCH, instead of returning to my pro-con lists, I spent hours reading the Band's website and watching videos. To me, the Band seemed to represent a microcosm of my favorite qualities of Brown and was exactly how I wanted to spend my next four years.

On my first day of rehearsal in September, I was nervous. What if the Band didn't live up to my expectations? What if I'd made the wrong choice? However, as soon as I entered Fulton, I was greeted by ice cream, friendly faces, and odd customs like throwing keys and yelling "F the Princeton Band!" I felt at home.

This fall semester, I spent as much time as I possibly could with the Band, which has quickly become my closest group of friends at Brown. My weeks now revolve around Tuesday night's rehearsal and Jo's, Saturdays and Fridays performing at games, and lunches at the Ratty with the Band. I wouldn't have it any other way.

Mark Liang '19

Hi there!

I was drawn to Band, as so many are, by the fashion-statement made by khakis and the lure of free food and travel. I joined, as fewer do, because I wanted to continue playing the instrument that is God's True Gift to Mankind, the Trumpet.

Moving to a college across the country is scary. I left my family and high school friends in sunny California, and found myself in definitely not-so-sunny Providence. It's been rough; this 50-degree weather and the frozen tundra that is the Eastern seaboard have me craving organic non-GMO kombucha tea almost every night. But my college transition has been lucky enough to have been aided by the best of families: The Brown University "Yeah you DO" Band.

I have never known an organization so rooted in tradition and irrelevancy, and so fundamentally diverse in concentrations and backgrounds (although we are entirely Jewish). This is really what I envisioned college to be like; the early morning romps through Perkins and the drinking songs were simply a plus. If my mom is reading this, please disregard this paragraph. If it's my dad; don't worry, it's scotch.

There's a lot waiting for me here at Brown. I still don't understand hockey. I still don't get some Band references (what's a sieve?). But I do know that you'll see me, dressed fashionably in khaki, along with new friends, playing music with a group I have inevitably begun to call home.

And for me, that is enough.

Ever True,
Mark Liang

Bandstand Blog Excerpt

"I was researching [the Penn Band] the night before on YouTube looking at the videos and I noticed that there was a video claiming that they were the record holders of the world's largest and longest conductor's baton. So, I thought this was pretty cool, and they listed the exact dimensions of how to make this conductor's baton and I thought, "It would be pretty cool if the band could pull that off and beat the Penn band." And then I was like, "Wait! I can build that!"

[...]

And, the baton is just able to hold on, before the thing starts melting from the rain because I had covered it in white paper. So that started to fall off but we completed the half-time show with our giant baton and beat the world record. The Penn Band was not too happy about that."

- Brandon Guarino GS '12

Enjoy this blog excerpt? Want to hear more alums reminisce about their time in the Brown Band? Check out our blog at <https://brownband.wordpress.com> for more! Contact the Alumni Liaisons at friends.of.the.brown.band@gmail.com if you would like your story included on the blog!

Meet our Seniors!

Responses collected by Cassie Cole '18. Photos submitted by respective seniors.

Amy Andrews — Alto Saxophone — Comparative Literature

Post-Graduation Plans: "'Plan' is a little strong at this point, but I do have a few vague ideas about what I want to do after I graduate:

1. Get a job.
2. Never do homework again.
All plans besides those are still TBD."

Favorite Band Memory: "It's impossible to pick one favorite memory, but a particularly good one was the Princeton trip junior year: getting on the bus at the crack of dawn, rehearsing and performing our joint halftime show with the Princeton Band (who could forget the tragic tale of Brunoneo and Princetoniette, the star-crossed lovers?), playing "The Impression That I Get" in the fountain after the game, and sharing songs with the Princeton band on a field at 2 a.m. It may or may not have been the most exhausting away trip I've ever been on, but it was definitely the most fun."



London Cooper-Troendle — Trombone — Astrophysics

Post-Graduation Plans: "Grad School."

Favorite Band Memory: "Princess Leia costume sophomore year. If I had to pick one moment, Lena complementing my boobs."

Brooke Gasdaska — Bari/Tenor Saxophone — Cognitive Neuroscience

Post-Grad Plans: "I'm looking for a research assistant-related job for next year while I figure out what path I want to take for grad school. Also, I'll probably cry a lot."

Favorite Band Memory: "I had a really hard time deciding what my favorite discrete memory is because there are SOOOO MANY, but I have to say the Princeton and Brown joint field show! Sometimes I cry when I watch the video of it. JOHNNY will truly Be a GOOD omen!"



Sidney Karesh — Trombone — International Relations, Slavic Studies

Post-Graduation Plans: "Ah, this is the part where the Band asks me the same question everyone over the age of 30 asks when I go home (how could you betray me like this!). Ideally, I want to make it to Russia this next year, but I am also looking into NGO work related to either Russia or the environment. I'm interested in education, which I would like to incorporate into my post-graduation plans either in Russia or closer to home before pursuing grad school."

Favorite Band Memory: I think some of my most cherished memories have been low brass caroling each year. I love our arrangements, and they sound awesome under the arches. People always stop to listen and thank us, even in poor weather. This past year one of the security guards watched us for a long time and told us we had made his day, and then we got invited up to a finals break night with movies and pizza! There are so many more memories I could have chosen, like giving the flutes crayons and stickers when I was RecSec to decorate the sign-in sheets, the amazing people on my Band Board this past year and all they did with great attitudes and senses of humor, and all the crazy things this great group of people has gotten into over the past four years."

Jesus Leyva — Piccolo, Kazoo — TAPS – Performance Studies

Post-Graduation Plans: "Aside from #weregraduating hopefully going to grad school for Performance Studies (PhD) somewhere in the East Coast."

Favorite Band Memory: "Winter trips are my favorite memories of all times. Signing in the bus is always the best."





Kenneth Lin — Alto Saxophone — Computer Science

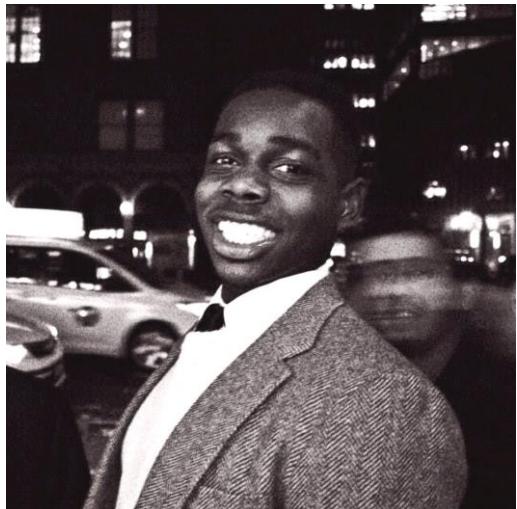
Post-Graduation Plans: "Off to Google in sunny, bright Mountain View, California to code-monkey for the foreseeable future."

Favorite Band Memory: "That one time (or was it four times? Guess my memory's going with age) we went caroling up and down Brown's campus. Good times."

Carlos Lopez — Trumpet, Snare, DJ — History

Post-Graduation Plans: "I have no concrete plans at the moment; I've never been one to make plans. Probably something that will allow large sums of donations to the Brown Band."

Favorite Band Memory: "Every party ever at Nick Brigg's house for the 2013-14 school year; some of the best highlights included blowing speakers (they were basically on fire), serving Patron on ice, the two story drink pour, Super Bowl party with Seahawks victory, the hour long Star Wars Cantina Band mix, and partying with Princeton. Nick's house was basically the Band's party house and the ultimate hangout place that year."



Armani Madison — Trombone — Political Science, History

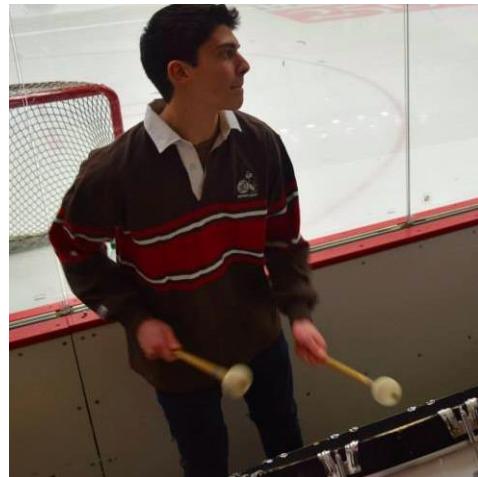
Post-Graduation Plans: "I'll likely be headed back to Atlanta to teach high school Social Studies as a member of the 2016 Teach for America Corps! After two years, I'll be headed to law school!"

Favorite Band Memory: "Winter trip! It was my first time being given so much responsibility, and I was so happy and relieved when things went smoothly and everyone was happy, and the Band gave a round of applause to the CorSec! Also, the trip on which "Bullshit!" was started for me, lol!"

Derek "Murmlehammer" Mesman-Hallman — "Dat Bass" — Mathematics

Post-Graduation Plans: "VEGAS BABY but for real I will be teaching high school math in the Las Vegas Valley and I'm quite excited!"

Favorite Band Memory: "Traveling down to New York to play at (outside) Lincoln Center on the eve of spring weekend 2k14. All the fun of an away game plus with an open-bar reception and we didn't have to watch any sports."



Charlie Moder — Trumpet — Computer Science

Post-Graduation Plans: "After graduating I will be heading out west to work at Google, where I may or may not end up living out of a van."

Favorite Band Memory: "My favorite memory with the Band is our annual caroling. It always felt so good bringing holiday cheer (in the form of music, singing, dancing, and of course hot chocolate) to students wrapped up in finals. I am also a big fan of all costumed events, since it's amazing how creative the Band can be in coming up with outfits. I also can't forget to mention intramural Band teams, which are full of fun and camaraderie. And yes, this all counts as one favorite memory."

Abby Muller — Alto Saxophone — Anthropology

Post-Graduation Plans: "Hopefully I will have a job! I'd like to do book publishing or museum stuff in the Boston or New York area. (Please someone hire me god please). Also, missing Brown and the Band full-time, probably."

Favorite Band Memory: "This is too hard to pick! I guess if I had to pick a single moment, I'd go with the rest stop where a random person joined us for thirty seconds of O Canada, asked us if we were actually from Canada, frustratedly told us we were "friggin' weird," and walked away. I mean, she wasn't wrong."





Anaiza Quintanilla — Mellophone — Neuroscience

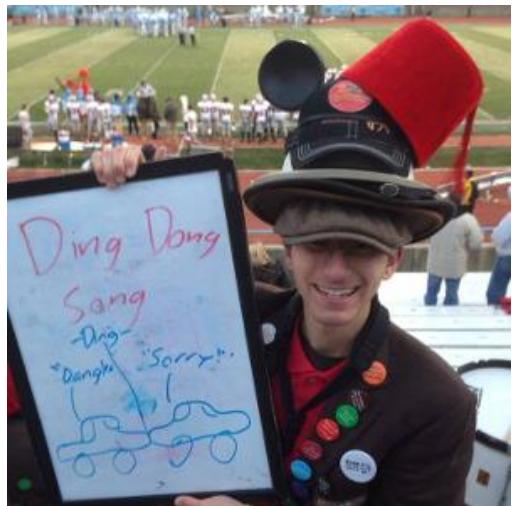
Post-Graduation Plans: "Hopefully med-school!!!"

Favorite Band Memory: "Dressing up with Zach as Cosmo and Wanda for the sidekick-themed hockey game!"

Chris Warren — Brass Instruments — Electrical Engineering

Post-Graduation Plans: "Still figuring out the details, but the hope is to get a job in signal processing. Ideally audio processing for music technology, so my work can involve my love of music without me relying on my questionable musical skills themselves."

Favorite Band Memory: "Lincoln Center, absolutely. Particularly schmoozing with a bunch of formally dressed real-world adults while wearing our... irreverently decorated band blazers."



Ben Weedon — "Sax/Trombone/Trumpet/Flute (but mostly sax <3 S&M)" — Computer Science, Linguistics

Post-Graduation Plans: "I'll be working at Microsoft."

Favorite Band Memory: "I'll probably have to go with my freshman Penn game, since there's multiple favorite memories in that. It was the Halloween game, so we were all dressed up. S&M was dressed as Super Smash Brothers characters, and there were some really good ones. I was Doctor Mario. I remember we had rehearsal in some random field in the middle of Philadelphia. The grass was covered in goose poop. We played the Legend of Zelda theme, and Joanna Lustig conducted with her sword (she was dressed as Link). And that

was the first game we threw stale bagels onto the field at Penn when they were throwing toast. Also, I think John Kotheimer had his cane taken away by security at that game (he was dressed as the Joseph Ducreux meme). It was a fun time.

"69 Seconds Left"

2015-16 Band Board

Caleb Hersh '17 President Caleb_Hersh@brown.edu	Dana Leichter '18 Vice President Dana_Leichter@brown.edu	Carol Medina '18 General Manager Carol_Medina@brown.edu
Iuliu Balibanu '18 Business Manager Iuliu_Balibanu@brown.edu	Francesca Lim '18 Corresponding Secretary Francesca_Lim@brown.edu	Greer Christensen-Gibbons '18 Recording Secretary Greer_Christensen-Gibbons@brown.edu

Appointed Leadership

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Sammy Perez '18.....samantha_perez@brown.edu

Giving

Ever wonder just how you could possibly spend the boatloads of money you're making now that you're no longer a college student? (That's how that works, right?) Ever wish you could personally fund the spectacular button masterpieces gracing the blazers of the Brown Band? The Band hugely appreciates any donations that alumni are able to make; they help us fund purchases not supported by UFB, including buttons and uniforms. To donate, please visit gifts.brown.edu and select "**Brown University Band**" under the dropdown list under "**Annual Donations to Athletics (Sports Foundation)**". Please *contact the Alumni Liaisons or a Band Board member* for questions or if you would like your donation to be used for a specific purpose.



**Thank you for reading this issue of the Bandstand,
and for your continued support of the Brown Band!**

**Ever True,
Abby Muller '16, Isabella Martinez '17, Cassie Cole '18, and Tim Peltier '19
Brown Band Alumni Liaisons**

For all inquiries please contact: friends.of.the.brown.band@gmail.com

Photos by Isabella Martinez '17

Stay Connected with the Band!

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youtube.com/user/BrownUBandstand



Page: facebook.com/BrownBand
Group: facebook.com/groups/2200013561

brownband.wordpress.com

