

Bandstand

The Official Alumni Newsletter of the Brown Band



Bandstand



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Dear Alumni,

Hello! You may be wondering who this new face is addressing you – my name is Elaine Nguyen, the somewhat-newly elected President of the Brown University “Our Alumni are Grrrr-eat!” Band! I’m a junior concentrating in Neuroscience, and at the Band’s games and events you can find me jamming with the beautiful and talented percussion section (yes, the percussion rule over the Band continues!). I previously served the Band as Vice President under the leadership—cough *dictatorship*—of our previous President, Carrie Danielson, whom I have finally overthrown after a year of doing her dirty work. I kid, of course – Carrie was such an excellent President and I enjoyed my experience on Band Board so much that I thought I’d take a stab at it (though I do think I may be a little crazy for it!).



We had a fantastic semester this fall, and that is definitely due in part to you all! We loved seeing quite a few of you at the Harvard game and at other events, as it's always nice to have you guys back to strengthen our numbers and join in the fun. We have also received incredibly generous financial support from alumni this semester, enabling us to continue to overhaul the Band's instrument inventory (details are below). We are about halfway to our goal of replacing all our old instruments, and we couldn't have done it without you. I cannot begin to tell you how much we appreciate donations from our alumni – you enable the Band to continue to thrive and serve our purpose of playing music and raising school spirit. I always know the Band is a truly special organization when I see how much its alumni continue to support it, even long after their time in Brunonia's halls has passed.

Though we may have seen some of you this fall, we'd love to continue to see you this spring! First up is the Alumni Ice Show, which will be on February 28th at the game against Rensselaer. Please dig out your old skates and come to skate and play with us, and hopefully this one won't be cancelled due to an untimely blizzard. This spring also marks the beginning of Brown's 250th Anniversary celebration, and it all kicks off at Commencement – which means we'd love to have you back to celebrate with us! We hope to have the biggest Commencement Band yet to celebrate the anniversary, so please mark down May 24th and 25th as Commencement Weekend and keep an eye on the Band website, where details will be posted soon. Having alumni back to share their stories and tales of their days in the Band is what makes Commencement truly special and keeps the Brown Band tradition alive. So please, join us this spring – we want to see you and hear about the time someone got left behind during an away trip, or about hilarious halftime shows of years past!

The Band has meant—and continues to mean—so much to me during my years here at Brown. It was the first organization that really welcomed me, the scared little freshman who walked into Fulton and couldn't even play an instrument. Karen Mellor '82, our invaluable percussion coach, threw some cymbals at me, told me that if I could clap my hands to a beat then I could be in the Band, and I've been hooked ever since. I know the Band means just as much to our alumni, and I see it every day, be it through your presence at games, your stories shared on the Band Facebook group (please join if you haven't already!), or through your generous donations. So thank you, again, for all your support of the Band. Feel free to contact me (elaine_nguyen@brown.edu) or the Friends of the Brown Band Liaisons (FOBBs) for anything, be it a visit to a game, a story about the Band, or just to say hello!

Finally, I just want to thank the FOBBs for all their hard work on this alumni newsletter. Our long-serving FOBBs Lewie Pollis '14 and Bethany Marshall '14 have put out quite a few of these now, and they're now joined by Sidney Karesh '16 and Caleb Hersh '17, who will continue to share the adventures the Brown Band with you. Please enjoy, and I hope to see you soon!

Ever True,
Elaine Nguyen '15
President of the Brown Band

2013 Spring Season Preview

This season is packed with exciting highlights, including our "Fictional Villain" themed Ice Show on February 1st, Winter Trip to Union and Rensselaer (where we will do our best to survive the Big Red Freak Out, whatever it is), and Triumvirate of Senior Games in late February and March.

Friday 1/24 – Yale -- 7pm—Men's Hockey

Saturday -- 2/15-- Penn -- 6pm – Men's Basketball

Saturday 1/25 -- Yale -- 4 pm -- Men's Basketball

Friday --2/21—Columbia-- 7pm –Women's Basketball

Friday 1/31 -- Colgate -- 7pm-- Men's Hockey

Saturday-- 2/22-- Harvard--4pm--
Women's Hockey -- SENIOR GAME

Saturday 2/1 -- Cornell 7pm-- Men's Hockey --

Fictional Villian Themed Ice Show

Friday -- 2/28—Rensselaer—7pm-- Men's Hockey
ALUMNI ICE SHOW!!!

Winter trip!

Saturday --3/1 –Union-- 4pm--Men's Hockey

Friday-- 2/7 -- Union-- 7pm -- Men's Hockey

Saturday-- 3/8 –Harvard-- 7pm—Men's Basketball--
SENIOR GAME

Saturday -- 2/8 -- Rensselaer -- 7pm -- Men's Hockey

Ice Show Information

Hey Alumni: Mark your calendars and sharpen your skates because we're having our **alumni ice show** after the game **on February 28!** More specific information will be coming soon, but in the meantime shoot us an email at Friends.of.the.Brown.Band@gmail.com if you'd like to come.

We also will be having a themed ice show on Friday 2/1 ; we'll be dressing up as *fictional villains!* Elrod is so excited that he has already decked himself out as Jafar from Disney's *Aladdin*. Hope to see you there!



Fall Season Wrap Up

By Lewie Pollis '14

We in the band get exposure to a wide variety of sports: puckball, peachcrateball, intramural softball, tug o'challenge. But no sport represents the Brown Band better than football. Or, as I like to call it, "FOOTBALLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL!"

Last semester, we proudly watched and cheered as our Brown Bears posted a winning record, while we in the Band got up to some fun shenanigans of our own. Here's a recap of our football experiences.

Game 1: Brown 45, Georgetown 7. Just four days after new class of Band freshmen showed up for their first rehearsal 17 (spoiler alert: they're awesome), they ran onto the field screaming for the first time. It was a trial by fire and our rookies came through with flying colors, leading the Bears to a 38-point rout of the Hoyas in the home opener.

Script themes: "Hoya's on Second"; the Georgetown police blotter; the diary of JJ, a rejected candidate to replace retiring Georgetown mascot Jack the Bulldog.

Game 2: Harvard 41, Brown 23. After resting our voices from a song-filled day at Haffenreffer, we bussed up to Taxachusetts for our first road trip of the season. The confines of Cambridge were as unwelcoming as always, but it was great to see the large group of Boston-based alumni who came out to join us! As for the football game...well, in the words of C. Montgomery Burns, "I don't know why Harvard even bothers to show up. They barely even won!"

Script themes: Cheaters returning to Harvard; Larry Summers; "Fifty Shades of Crimson."

Game 3: Brown 31, URI 14. We returned home the next week to watch the Bears face off against the Rhody Small Meats under the lights at Brown Stadium. It was a night game, so we had to tell each other all our secrets. Here's one of them: We beat URI for the third time in a row, meaning we get to keep the Governor's Cup for another year.

Script themes: Outdated Rhode Island laws; TICKNADO 2013; the URI Ghost Hunting Team.



Game 4: Brown 41, Bryant 14. Most of us had never heard of Bryant until it popped up on the football schedule, so we were very excited to traverse Rhode Island to check it out. It turned out that Bryant had never heard of us either, because they were taken by surprise when we started running on the field with our instruments before the game. I think we made a good impression, but either way we came out victorious.

Script themes: Introductions; neighbors; the government shutdown.

Fall Season Wrap Up Cont.

Game 5: Princeton 39, Brown 17. Some of our favorite people came to town for Family Weekend this year—no, not our parents. The Princeton Band! Despite the traffic problems they've been having in New Jersey, they made it out to Providence for a super fun night and a not-quite-as-fun football game. Come back and see us soon!

Script themes: Parents; shape-shifting aliens; fictional Princeton alumni.

Game 6: Brown 42, Cornell 35. Now, I don't know much about football, but this was by far the best and most exciting game we saw this season. More importantly, it was our Halloween game, and we wore our stunning costumes not just on the field and in the stands but during the previous night's shenanigans, from partying in a sauna-like house with the Cornell Band to eating Hot Truck and paying our respects to Ezra Cornell (and his friend).

Script themes: Football. (We were instructed to make our script fully relevant to the game.)

Game 7: Brown 27, Penn 0. I'm not at all happy to say that my time at Brown is coming to a close, but I *am* immensely proud to say that I will have ended my undergraduate career without ever having seen the Quakers score a point on our home field. After the game, we helped dedicate the new statue of Indomitable, a *definitely male* bear.

Script themes: Indomitable; Sex Power God; trailblazing research at Penn.



Game 8: Yale 24, Brown 17. Ah, Connecticut. Home of Stupid Building, never-ending traffic jams, and the great Mystic Aquariums. Unfortunately it also the home of Yale University and its toilet-shaped football arena, aptly named the Yale Bowl. We lost a close one to the Bulldogs, but we succeeded in flushing the Yale Bowl.

Script themes: Hard-hitting headlines from the *Yale Daily News*; laundry machine poopers; disappearing squirrels.

Game 9: Dartmouth 24, Brown 20. A day after our very emotional Bandquet, we had what could only be described as "SOOOOO MANY FEELINGS!" at our seniors' last home game of their undergraduate careers. (I can't believe I just wrote that sentence.) We lost this one, but friendship won the day as we celebrated the last time we'd all be together at Brown Stadium.

Script themes: Dartmouth's relationship with Columbia; famous Dartmouth alumni; senior limericks.

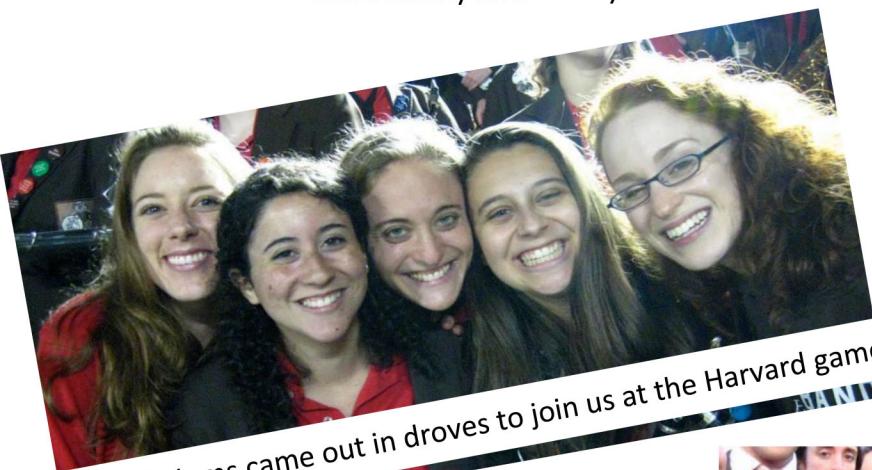
Game 10: Brown 48, Columbia 7. From watching our Bears clinch a winning record to playing "favorite song, favorite form" to a great night out in New York City to singing nonstop the entire way home, this was probably the most memorable football game of my Band career. And unlike last time we went to Columbia (Where?) Columbia (Oh!), no one ruined everything by saying the name of "That Song" before the game was over.

Script themes: Freedom; "Hakuna Matata"; movies in which New York City gets destroyed.

All in all, it was a phenomenal season filled with great memories and even better friends. Here's to the start of another awesome semester!

2013 – A Year in Pictures

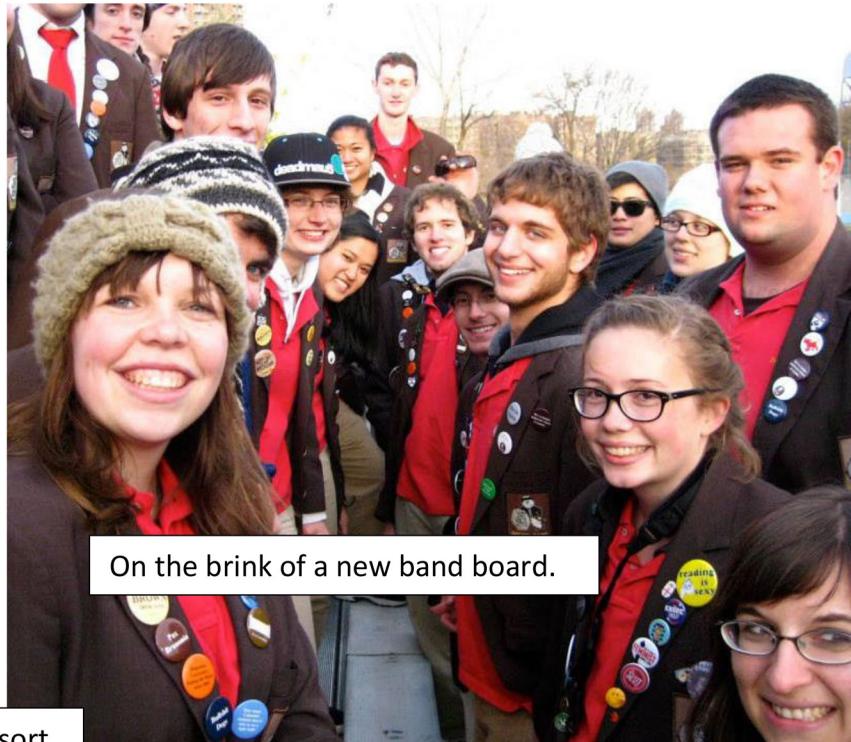
Captions by Sidney Karesh, Photos by Brandon Guarino,
Lena Barsky and Sidney Karesh



The Band alums came out in droves to join us at the Harvard game!



As a result of low attendance, Low Brass had to resort to a tetrahedron form in lieu of the usual pyramid.



On the brink of a new band board.

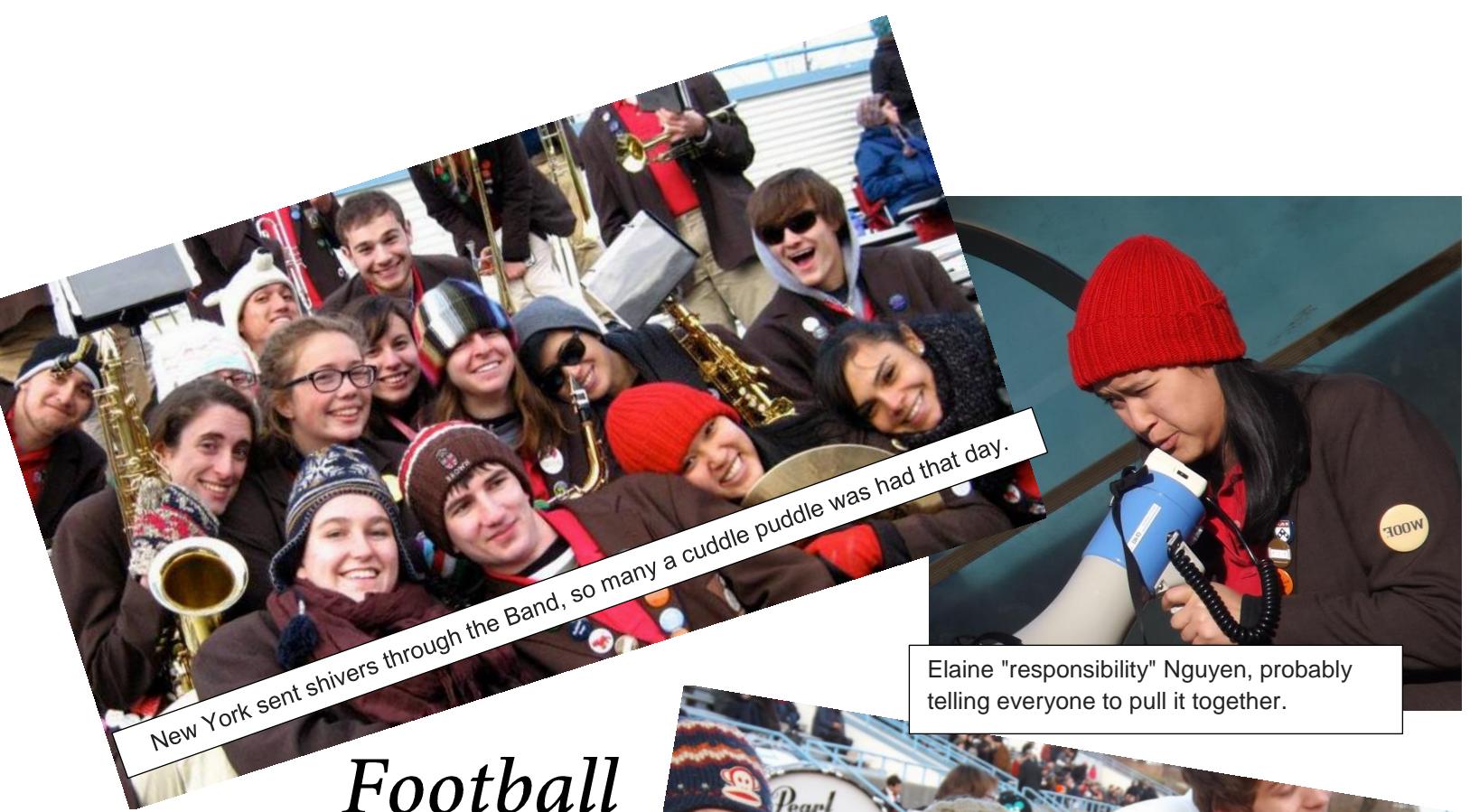


There were some mixed feelings about being in the Yale Bowl...

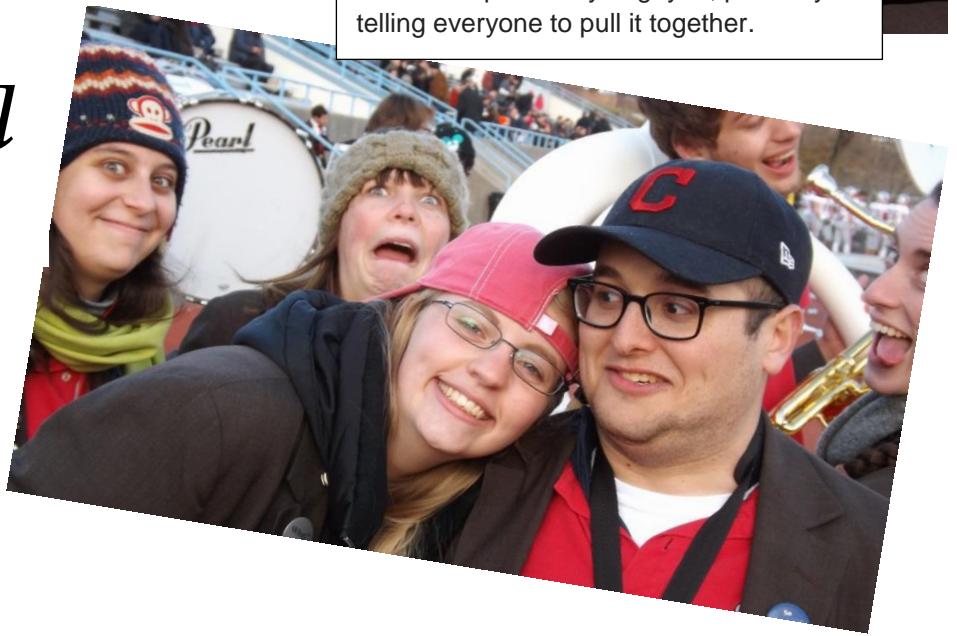
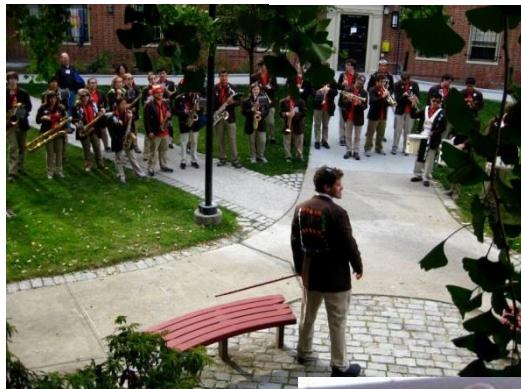


Derek just can't handle all this scrambling so early in the morning!





Football Season



This year's seniors letting loose at their last home game.



Old and new band boards



One lone frozen wasteland representative

Bandquet



This year's award winners!



Meet Our Seniors!



Adam Siegel – Trumpet – Biomedical Engineering

Post-Graduation Plans:

“I plan on going to medical school after working for a year.”

Favorite Band Memory:

“We were at Quinnipiac and I was conducting a song during the period break. At this point I notice that the Quinnipiac mascot (in a bobcat suit) is standing right next to me... He or she then proceeds to cover my eyes with his or her "paws" while I am conducting. This typically does not happen: mascots usually aren't supposed to sabotage the other team's band... I think the mascot tried to high five me after the song was over. This is the kind of thing that only happens in the Brown Band.”

Ayano Kondo – Alto Saxophone – Biology

Post-Graduation Plans:

“I haven't really started the job search yet (oops) but my goal is to find a biology related job in either San Diego or Boston!”

Favorite Band Memory:

“My favorite band memory is Band Board changeover in 2011 at Columbia (Columbia). I had just taken about 2 1/2 shots of Goldschlager, and as my first job as CorSec I had to hand out buttons to the spectators. Stumbling around the bleachers and leaping over people's laps all while flaunting my infamous Asian glow face, I managed to accidentally collect donations in the bucket of buttons. I retrieved back to the Band shouting, ‘Hey Band, I made money!!’ and the band responded back with, ‘Dammit, Ayano!!’”



Bethany Marshall – Trombone – Slavic and Middle Eastern Studies

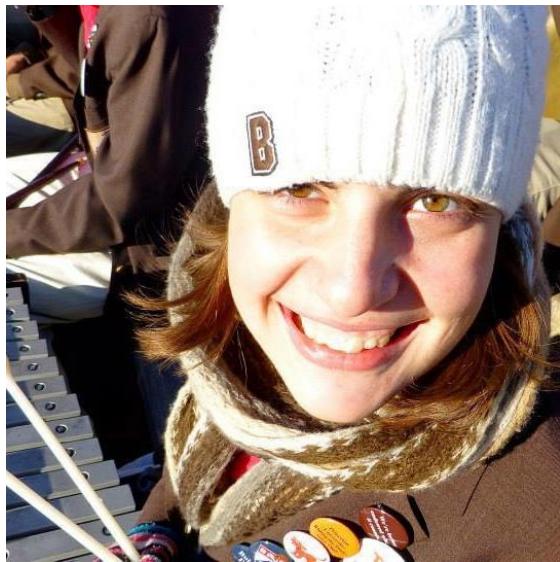
Post-Graduation Plans:

“After graduation I'm planning on teaching English in a variety of different countries, (hopefully including Tajikistan, Poland, Germany, China, and Japan), before returning stateside to teach English/Literature in a high school somewhere in the Midwest.”

Favorite Band Memory:

“It's probably between hanging out and skipping with rando Clarkson bandies ('IF YOU WANT TO GO TO THE BAGELRY, COME WITH ME!') and watching London 'Princess Londellefig' Cooper-Troendle run around on the field in a Princess Leia costume.”

More Seniors!



Carrie Danielson –Glockenspiel--Music

Post-Graduation Plans:

"Well, I recently finished up filling out applications for graduate school in Ethnomusicology, where I'm hoping to focus ...on world music pedagogy and children's music culture. Hopefully it will work out!"

Favorite Band Memory:

"... Where do I start? I could talk about the time Ruth Simmons played bass drum with the band, or when Jenna and I figure skated to "O Canada" while the band attempted to form a maple leaf on the ice. I could talk about the time we defended ourselves against the mass of vuvuzelas ... [at] St. Lawrence, or I could discuss how we magically pulled off an arrangement of "Karn-Pachuco" last year at Dartmouth. I think my favorite memories, ...[are of] scriptwriting and bus rides. It's always fun to joke around and spend time with my fellow bandies, and ... see the underclassmen step up and contribute to the quirky, lovely entity that is the Brown University Band.

Catherine Bautista – Flute/Piccolo – Biomedical Engineering

Post-Graduation Plans:

"I hope to spend at least a couple of months living abroad. After that, I'll get a job in the biotechnology industry (if I'm lucky). I intend on going back to school for biomedical engineering in a few years because school/research is the best!"

Favorite Band Memory:

"I have a pretty bad memory, so I'm probably forgetting some good stories. What stands out to me right now is my first ice show with the band. I'm a terrible skater, so I was really excited when I didn't fall the whole time we were on the ice. Performing 'In the Fray' still scares me, but we always manage to pull it off! I love ice shows and hockey!"



Cooper Tamayo – Trumpet – Environmental Science

Post-Graduation Plans:

"I will be working with the Renewable Community Initiative, a non-profit organization that aims to supply ... forms of renewable energy to low-income neighborhoods."

Favorite Band Memory:

"I hope you don't really expect me to just pick one, because, let's face it, that was never going to happen. So, in no particular order: One of my favorite jobs as Mom was running around with the Corsec (Akon, '14) and a shopping cart full of hot chocolate during caroling ..., because I love hot chocolate, and caroling, and going downhill in shopping carts irresponsibly fast. Also, every single Bandquet, and especially Operation Slow Roast, when 2012 Band Board serenaded the Band with Bohemian Rhapsody (Ding ding, bow bow, etc.). More recently, getting to be among the God Kings and Queens this year was amazingly fun, as was gathering on Columbia (Columbia)'s (broken) sundial and singing Brown Band songs raucously as it began to snow. I could go on, but I don't want to overstay my welcome here, so we'll leave it at those.."



Even More Seniors!



Dara Illowsky – Clarinet – Environmental Science

Post-Graduation Plans:

"This is a very sensitive subject for anyone outside of the finance/consulting realm this time of year. Hopefully by May I'll have secured a job saving all of the animals, but only time will tell."

Favorite Band Memory:

"I might have to say the Harvard half-time show my sophomore year. It was the last time we ever pulled out the soda bottle with two soda cans form (no pun intended on "pulled out"). We had to cut it from all future shows because Harvard's athletic department threw such a fit. I was on band board at the time and we were all so baffled by the whole debacle. What's so scandalous about a soda bottle with two soda cans?."

Dennis Walsh – Trombone – Mathematics

Post-Graduation Plans:

"Currently I am searching for a quantitative research position within the fields of finance, business, or tech. After graduation, I intend to work in a math-related job before returning to graduate school."



Favorite Band Memory:

"I have many, many favorite memories from my time spent with the Brown Band during the past three and a half years. I think one of my favorite experiences was the Alumni ice show during the spring of my sophomore year (Feb 17th, 2012). We played 'You Can Call Me Al' for our second song of the show, which was unusual since the Band reserves this song for the end of nearly every major sporting event that we attend. Jon Cox ('13) and I danced on the ice during the flute and piccolo solo (we made steps similar to those clarinets and S&M make during 'Al')."



John Kotheimer – Trumpet – Economics, History

Post-Graduation Plans:

"I will be moving to New York to start a job as an investment banking analyst and coming back to visit the Band as long as it is socially appropriate (that's forever, right?)."

Favorite Band Memory:

"I couldn't possibly pick a single favorite Band memory, but Winter Trip 2011 is a definite contender. Meeting the Clarkson Band, walking around their (extremely cold) campus looking for a band party that didn't exist, Gouv Bowl [the bowling alley in Gouverneur, NY] and the vuvuzela-toting fans at St. Lawrence are just some highlights. Not that my freshmen self needed any more convincing, but that weekend just cemented my love of the Brown Band entirely."

Sooo Many Seniors!

Kayla Rosen – Clarinet – History and Education Studies

Post-Graduation Plans:

"After a summer-long cross-country road trip, I will be moving to Boston to work at an education consulting firm that helps school districts run more effectively!"

Favorite Band Memory:

"Too many to count, from Halloween three-musketeering at Cornell, to paper plate awards while abroad, to sloth times at the Duck and Bunny, to themed ice shows, to all the Haffenreffers, to shocking on-lookers at each rest stop on away trips. But my favorite memory ever: the very first day of band rehearsal. I didn't plan on attending, but my Wayland hall-mates convinced me to go. I remember playing Bad Romance and introducing myself in the clarinet break out circle. I couldn't have known on that third day of college that Band would turn into a defining part of my Brown experience, and that the folks in that room would become some of the most important people in my life.."



Lena Barsky – Clarinet – Classics: Latin

Post-Graduation Plans:

"As of right now I'm applying to several fellowships in the political world, so I hope that at least one of those works out! I also might try to work on a campaign in the upcoming congressional election. As for 'immediately post-graduation plans,' I plan to spend all of May 26 crying, looking at every Band photo I can find, and listening to Band songs on repeat."

Favorite Band Memory:

"How to choose? There are so many! Any scriptwriting session from the past four football seasons because they're all hysterical; "Gouv Bowl" on Winter Trip 2011; the Cornell 2011 away trip, especially when Andrew Leber read our passive-aggressive halftime script; the Princeton 2012 away trip, with a party that didn't get busted and the ever-exciting Princeton Fountain; the Dartmouth 2012 away trip and Karn Pachuco; battling Quinnipiac on Winter Trip 2013; the entirety of our senior football season (Fall 2013) because it was such an amazing time spent with the best people in the world..."



Lewie Pollis – Soprano/Tenor Saxophone – Economics, Political Science

Post-Graduation Plans:

"I'll be starting as a Baseball Operations Intern for the Cincinnati Reds in June. I hope to parlay that into a full-time job doing statistical analysis for an MLB team (think Jonah Hill's character in Moneyball), and maybe one day working my way up to General Manager."

Favorite Band Memory:

"The Columbia (Columbia) game and our night in New York in November. We definitely saved the best football game and trip for last."



But Wait, There's More Seniors!



Nick Briggs – Cymbals/Percussion – Political Science

Post-Graduation Plans:

“Congressional Staffer/Policy Research in Washington DC”

Favorite Band Memory:

“This most recent trip to Columbia (Columbia) when we sang band songs for a solid twenty minutes on the sundial in the middle of campus. The snow had just started to come down and we were about to embark on an excellent night in the city. We sang again when we made it back. It was an incredible night.”

Ronnie Chiou – Tenor Sax – Biomedical Engineering

Post-Graduation Plans:

“Committing 4-5 years to working as cheap labor, if I'm accepted into a Ph.D. program! Science rules.”

Favorite Band Memory:

“It might be too difficult to decide, but the first one that comes to mind: during Winter Trip 2012, waking up super early in Ithaca (post-puma party) to find Waffle Frolic with some fantastic people, and then proceeding to eat beautiful waffles with a bunch of beautiful topics.”



Taran Raghuram – Percussion – Physics and Economics

Post-Graduation Plans:

“Hopefully working with an international development organization in a country where I don't speak the language. That or teaching physics.”

Favorite Band Memory:

“Penn trip junior year, watching Hercules on a cramped hotel bed and singing myself hoarse with band and non-band songs on the way back. Oh, and eating my weight in carrots and hummus at the band party.”

Our Last Seniors!

Zach Rowe ('13.5) – Tenor Sax – Geophysics

Post-Graduation Plans:

"My wonderful experiences with the Brown Band inspired me to join the Chaotic Noise Marching Corps here in Seattle. Don't worry, we lie about the marching. I'm a potential member for a month while they feel me out, but I recently performed at my first gig and they were very impressed by my high-heeled combat boots, daisy dukes, and the honesty of my hips. Hopefully I'll see many of you this fall when we do Honk! (in Boston) Pronk! (in India Point Park/Wickenden Street) and Honk! NYC (where?).

My more medium-term plans involve grad school to become a high school science teacher and hoping my students never google me."

Favorite Band Memory:

"Quinnipiac: The most hostile crowd we ever encountered (involving security taking one guy away before Wendy could cut him). Limited to 25 instruments, I volunteered to make music with just my body. Dancing all night, I confused many Quinnipiac fans ("So, is your whole job in the band to dance?") and a couple of jocks explored themselves by flirting with me. I can't understand why I'm the only person that really wanted the band to go back there.."

Kyle Zurcher – Percussion – International Development and Middle Eastern Studies

Post-Graduation Plans:

"I plan to go into international development after graduation."

Favorite Band Memory:

"There are just so many memories, I don't know where to begin! So I'll just have to say the very beginning; my first rehearsal with the band."



Seniors not featured here (who we love anyway!) include:

Brendon Verch, Chimmy Onawannabullay, Chris Wright,
Elizabeth Castner , Julie Diamond, and Zifan Yang,

Thanks for your continued support of the Brown Band! We hope you enjoyed this newsletter 😊



Ever True,

Bethany Marshall '14, Caleb Hersh '17, Lewie Pollis '14, and Sidney Karesh '16
Friends of the Brown Band Alumni Liaisons