

# Bandstand

Friends of the Brown Band Alumni Newsletter  
Vol. 4 Issue 1

Fall 2012



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## **Dear Alumni,**

Hello there! For those of you who don't know me, I'm Lena Barsky, current President of the Brown University "Boy Oh Boy Do We Have Great Alumni!" Band! I'm a junior studying Classics and constitutional law, and at games and events you can find me rockin' out on the clarinet. Since last November I've met so many of you through our Alumni Ice Show and Commencement; I hope that I can meet even more of you before my time in the Band is up!

This past Spring Semester was fantastic, due largely to your support. Our annual February Phone-a-Thon was a great success, and we were able to buy lots of new equipment for our percussionists as well as repair many of our "well-loved" instruments. (Both bari saxes are now shiny and good as new!) Also, some of those donations helped ensure that we'd be able to travel to nearly all of our away games during this upcoming football season. The jury's still out on whether we can attend Georgetown, but we're really hoping that things will work out because we want to meet all of our DC-area band alumni. This will be the first time in six years that Bruno and his ever-faithful friend Elrod "69" Snidley will be heading down to Our Nation's Capital, so cross your fingers really hard and we'll see you there!

Spring 2012 was also so exciting for the Brown Band, alumni-wise, because of our extremely successful Alumni Ice Show and the unprecedented number of alumni present for Commencement Band! It was so much fun to skate with Bandies who probably hadn't donned their ice skates in quite some time, and to learn hockey cheers from bygone eras. Also, there

were so many alumni at Commencement Band that y'all nearly doubled the size of the band from what it would have been with just students! When I told the Commencement coordinators that we'd have an eighty-person Band, they were shocked and I was smugly pleased. We sounded great, and hearing stories from the Band's wilder days (i.e. the 70's and 80's) was a blast. Thank you *so much* to everyone who attended these events! Please come and play with us at a football game (or two, or five...) this season!

The current Bandies will tell anyone who asks that I have a lot of "feelings," and that's not an understatement. I love the Band, I love all of its participants, and, most importantly (...for this letter at least!) I love our alumni. You are the most committed, invested, enthusiastic group of alumni that I've ever encountered, and you give all current Bandies reassurance that once our time in Brunonia's halls are over, we'll still have the Brown Band community to turn to. Your generosity obviously means a great deal to us, and we are so grateful for that; your presence at events is equally as significant. Your stories, songs, and spirit are what keep the Band thriving, and we can't thank you enough!

Like I said above, please try to come to a football game this fall! Contact myself ([lena\\_barsky@brown.edu](mailto:lena_barsky@brown.edu)) or any of your fantastic FOBBs (let's give a big round of applause to Lewie, Carrie, and Bethany for all of their hard work) if you're interested!

Ever True,  
Lena Barsky '14

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Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Alumni, introducing a season preview for a band that NBC calls "A riotous good time... better than all of the other bands, especially Princeton!" ... (or will, once they film us this fall!), we give you:

## THE BROWN UNIVERSITY FALL 2012 SEASON PREVIEW

*It's almost that time of year again: football season! Or as I like to call it, FOOTBALLLLLLLLLLLLLL!!!!!! season (perhaps that doesn't come through well via written text). Yes, it's everyone's favorite sport that no one actually understands. Or maybe that's just me. At any rate, the Brown Band will be there to cheer on our Bears all season long, from the*

*pregame jumping circles to the post-victory renditions of the song that shall not be named. (Don't try to be cute and say it—that's how we lost the Columbia game last year).*

*Here's a look at what's in store for our football season this year. As always, band alumni are welcome to join us for any of our events!*



**Game 1: Brown at Holy Cross  
September 15**

The Bears kick off the 2012 season (Get it? Because “kick off” is both a football term and a colloquial expression. Clever, right?) with a trip to Holy Cross; unfortunately, we will not be in attendance. For those who may not know, the Brown Band has been—wait for it, wait for it—*banned* (homonym!) from football games at Holy Cross since long, long ago when a halftime show poking fun at the school’s religious affiliation crossed the line and got us in some hot water. Ah well. We’ll be there in spirit.



**Game 3: Brown at Georgetown  
September 29**

For the first time since 2006, the Bears will head south to D.C. to take on the Georgetown Hoyas. Georgetown represents the best of the genuine enthusiasm for public service and responsible governance that is so pervasive in Washington, as seen from notable alumni like Jack Abramoff J.D. ’86 and Jim McGreevey J.D. ’81 The Hoyas are known for being really bad at football and wearing their trademark button-downs and polo shirts as their team uniform (probably). Unfortunately, due to financial constraints we’re not sure if the Band will be able to come along for the ride—it’s like we’re a social welfare program after Georgetown alumnus and Tea Party member Mick Mulvaney ’89 went to work on it. All the more reason why you should vote to send Elrod Snidley to Congress this November!



**Game 2 (Homecoming):  
Harvard vs. Brown  
September 22  
(Televised: NBC Sports  
Network)**

The Harvard men will descend from their ivory towers and have their butlers drive them down to Providence\* as the Bears host their first home game of the season. Luckily, if I’m getting my stereotypes right, the average Cambridger’s football experience is limited to backyard games at family gatherings when everyone’s wearing golf shirts and pastel sweaters, so Bruno shouldn’t have any trouble stopping the Crimson Flow. This is our Homecoming game, and even more importantly we’re going to be on TV! One thing’s for sure: We’ll all be looking our best for the cameras.

*\*Our resident captain of industry has informed me that no self-respecting aristocrat would ever need a butler to also act as his or her driver. I apologize for my mistake.*



**Game 4 (Governor’s Cup):  
Brown at URI  
October 6**

Yes, it’s the annual Governor’s Cup showdown between the URI Urinals (I don’t remember what their actual team name is off the top of my head and I’m sure it’s not as good as mine) and the defending champion Brown Bears. We’ll trek all the way across the rolling hills and fruited plains of Rhode Island to show the URI “marching” band what it really means to bang and blow. Interestingly, the Bears are undefeated 1-0 in the Governor’s Cup since Brown alumnus Lincoln Chafee ’75 was elected to the governorship in 2010—the fix is on, but it’s okay because it’s in our favor.



**Game 5: Brown at Princeton  
October 13  
(Televised: NBC Sports  
Network)**

In case you're not aware, the Brown Band has a little crush on our counterparts at Princeton. Maybe it's that they march backwards, maybe it's that we're soulmates, or maybe we're just that we're so excited about the idea of being in love that our zest for romance has given us unrealistic expectations about what it will be like when we finally get together. At any rate, this game is just an excuse for us to spend a romantic weekend with the Princeton Band—highlighted, of course, by a grand concert in the fountain. We'll be sure to get our orange Jersey spray-on tans on for the NBC cameras!



**Game 7: Brown at University  
of Pennsylvania  
October 27**

The tradition continues as the Bears take on the University of Pennsylvania in their last game of October. Last year this showdown was the most memorable game of the season as Bruno braved the bitter cold and pouring rain to beat the Quakers 6-0 without scoring a touchdown. Not to mention we were all decked out in our Halloween costumes, though it was hard to see them under our rain ponchos. Will the Bears eke out another victory? Will the Band's Halloween costumes be epic? Will you be able to tell the difference between monster masks and Penn students? The answer to the second question is a resounding "yes," but for the other two we'll have to wait and see.



**Game 6 (Family Weekend):  
Cornell vs. Brown  
October 20**

Just as Odysseus followed the siren's song to challenge Ursa Major to a duel of wooden horse polo (or something like that), the Cornell team will venture from the remote land of Ithaca to face off against the Bears. But while the epic hero was accompanied by ships full of great warriors when he outwitted Medusa and John Goodman, Cornell comes backed by only the so-called "Big Red." And of course, no anthropomorphic color can beat Brown! It's Family Weekend, so as an added bonus you can watch students telling their clingy parents they have work to do so they can sneak off to the AEPi party or drink malteds or whatever those whippersnappers do for fun these days.



**Game 8: Yale vs. Brown  
November 3  
(Televised: YES Network)**

Well this is awkward. The Yale Band is to us as we are to the Princeton Band: We're flattered by their advances, but the desperation with which they pursue us is kind of embarrassing. What will become of this awkward love triangle? I don't know, but it must be something exciting if it's going to play out on TV. All I know is that we'd better win this one, if only to see the Yalies get flustered. No preview for a Yale football game would be complete without quoting the school's most iconic alumnus, C. Montgomery Burns: "Honestly, Smithers, I don't know why Harvard even bothers to show up. They barely even won!"





**Game 9: Brown at Dartmouth  
November 10**

To the frozen wasteland we go! The Bears' final road trip before their winter hibernation will take them north to Hanover. Like Cornell, the Dartmouth Big Green have deluded themselves into thinking they are higher in the color hierarchy than Brown; somehow they seem even less intimidating than the Big Red. Speaking of hued sports teams, did you know that the Cleveland Browns have no affiliation with the Brown Bears? The Cincinnati Reds have nothing to do with Cornell, but University of Cincinnati alumnus Kevin Youkilis has spent his entire professional baseball career with teams named for different colors of socks. What were we talking about again? Wait, what's on second.



Who's on second? No, who's on first. I don't know. Third base!

**Game 10 (Senior Day):  
Columbia vs. Brown  
November 17**

The season ends, as it always does, with our traditional face-off with Columbia. *Where?* Columbia. *Oh!* The Lions were 0-9 heading into our matchup last year, though for some reason I can't seem to remember how that game turned out. Anyway, the weather will be cold but our hearts will be warm as we recognize our seniors for all they have given to the band but no we can't do that because that means they're leaving noooooooooooooo! On the bright side, they won't really be gone because they'll still be part of our awesomely amazing alumni network. Just like you!

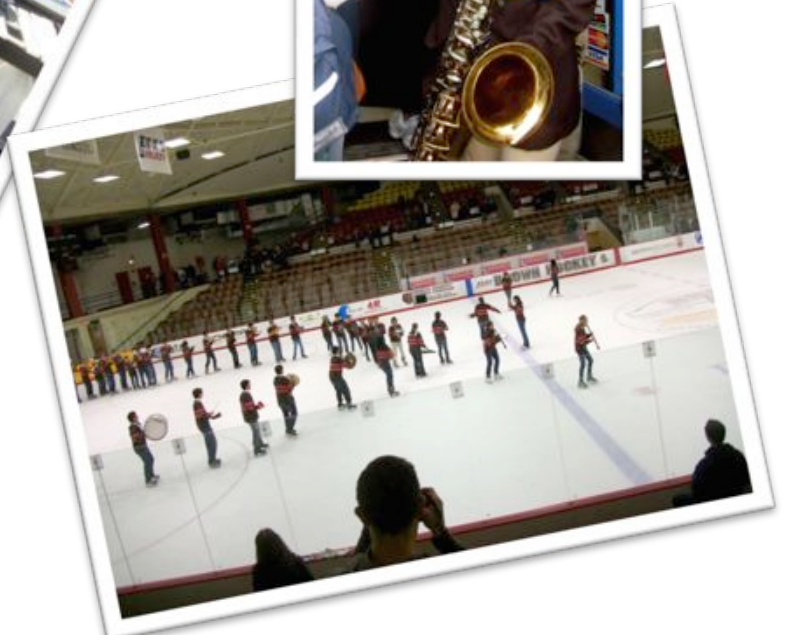
*But that's not all! The season will be filled with fun, friends, laughs, and totally kick-ass music. You're always welcome to join in—we always love having our wonderful alumni come back to visit. Hope to see you this fall!*



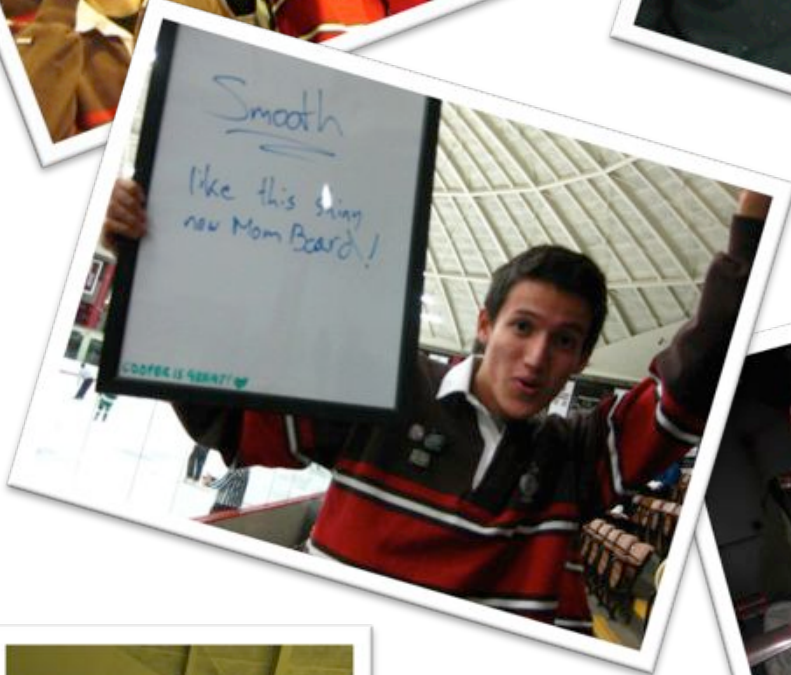
*Photo by: Adam Robbins '05*



# Spring 2012 in Photos







# Commencement 2012

## Congratulations Class of 2012!



We'd like to start out our commencement week recap by welcoming ten new faces to the Brown Band alumni community! Pictured left to right are: Jeffrey Blum (12.5), David Stern, Ben Geilich, Andrea Weber, Andrew Leber, Maggie Goter, Brandon Guarino (M.S.), and Jessica Kirschner (Not pictured: Ben Leib and Monica DeSantiago). Congratulations, and best of luck in your future endeavors!

Despite its bittersweet nature, Commencement Week 2012 was yet again a wonderful time for the Band to spend time together, play some great music, welcome our alumni, and say goodbye to some of our favorite bandies. Events this year included dinners at Fire and Ice and Dave & Buster's, a trip to Newport, playing at the dedication of the new Katherine Moran Coleman Aquatics Center and Nelson Fitness Center, our annual trip to Haffenreffer, Campus Dance, and, of course, rehearsal and Commencement day.



## Band Outings

Perhaps one of the best parts of commencement week is being able to enjoy Brown and Providence without the worries of classes and exams, and what better way is there to explore our surroundings than with the one and only Brown Band? To celebrate the successful completion of another semester, we traded in the Sci-Li and late-night Jo's snacks for arcade games at Dave & Buster's and lobster nachos in Newport, amongst other exciting adventures.



***Fun fact:*** When your friendly neighborhood FOBBs aren't attending to important alumni matters, we're actually training for the next skee-ball olympics.

*Do we have a winning Dave & Buster's Band?*

*Yes, we have a winning Dave & Buster's Band!*

Meanwhile back in Perkins...



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# Haffenreffer

Thursday morning, the Band headed for the great outdoors for our biannual Haffenreffer retreat! It was a beautiful day filled with games, BBQ, t-shirts, and even some swing dancing!



*Bandies sport their new t-shirts designed by Band dad, Cooper Tamayo.*

*"I'm with the Brown Band. Your argument is invalid."*



*Bocce ball is a serious sport amongst bandies.*



*Grillmaster Danny ensured that the band did not go hungry*



## Dedication Ceremony

It was back to playing music and spreading school spirit on Friday afternoon as the Band played for the dedication of the new Nelson Fitness Center and Katherine Moran Coleman Aquatics Center. Attendees cheered as we surprised the crowd by entering into the pool area and playing *Ever True*. Luckily, no bandies fell in, and no instruments got wet!



## Campus Dance 2012

After a long afternoon of serenading those at the new fitness and aquatics center, the Band got all dolled up for the biggest party in Rhode Island. Bandies danced the night away (thanks to learning a few moves from a few fellow band members in the Swing Dance club), reunited with some of our favorite alumni, and watched as our graduating seniors sang "*That Song*" and *Ever True* on the steps of Sayles Hall.





## Commencement Weekend

Saturday morning's rehearsal brought more friendly faces to Fulton rehearsal hall. We spent the morning greeting alumni, rehearsing music, and swapping stories about great moments in Brown Band history. That afternoon, we donned our khaki pants and snazzy new polos for a campus march!

Sunday was the big day! After processing through the Van Wickle Gates in our usual fashion (talentedly hopping backwards on one foot, crossing our fingers and toes whilst playing the Brown Commencement March), we watched as alumni, professors, and graduates poured through the gates and lined themselves up along College Street. The Band was greeted with cheers as we processed through the crowd and made our way to

Faunce steps for the remainder of the ceremony, where we watched on as President Ruth Simmons gave her final commencement speech and honorary degrees were awarded. As the ceremony came to an end, we closed out yet another Brown Band year with *You Can Call Me Al*. We said goodbye for the summer, but look forward to reuniting again in the fall for yet another great year with The Brown University Band!



**Thank You,  
Alumni for  
another wonderful  
year! Come back  
to visit us soon!**



Introducing a **new feature** for the FOBB newsletter:

# Dear Elrod,

*an advice column for people with questions about the Brown Band. Let's take a look at his summer mailbag.*

Dear Elrod,

I am an alumnus and/or alumna with fond memories of my time in the Brown Band and access to a computer. How can I keep up with the Band's adventures via the World Wide Web?

Sincerely,  
Grandon Buarino

*Dear Grandon,*

Thanks for reaching out! Our website (<http://students.brown.edu/band>) and our blog (<http://brownband.wordpress.com>) are your best online sources for all things Brown Band. You can also connect with us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/BrownBand>) and follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/BrownUBandStand>), and you can always email the alumni liaisons at [Friends.Of.The.Brown.Band@gmail.com](mailto:Friends.Of.The.Brown.Band@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

*Ever True,  
Elrod*

Dear Elrod,

I am an extraordinarily wealthy alumnus and/or alumna with gratuitous amounts of money to throw around and a great passion for the Brown Band. Might I be able to offer the Band some financial assistance?

Regards,  
Lord Baron Richwald  
Bankington III, Esquire



*Dear Lord Bankington,*

Absolutely! We depend on help from alumni donations to fix and purchase new instruments and to travel with our sports teams, among other expenditures. You can email the alumni liaisons at [Friends.Of.The.Brown.Brand@gmail.com](mailto:Friends.Of.The.Brown.Brand@gmail.com) or Band President Lena Barsky at [Lena\\_Barsky@brown.edu](mailto:Lena_Barsky@brown.edu) if you are interested in giving to the Band.

*Ever True,  
Elrod*

Dear Elrod,

Woohoo! I love sports. Nothing like watching the snapback make an interception at half court shortstop. When can I see you guys play at a game?

Roll Tribe!  
Champ Q. Nebraska

*Dear Champ,*

First of all, what you wrote doesn't make any sense. Are you really a sports fan? Your name is clearly made up and your incoherent description of a football game suggests that you are not, as you claim, a sporting aficionado. At any rate, you can find a preview and schedule of this season's football games elsewhere in this newsletter. You can also find information about Brown sporting events at the athletic department's website, <http://BrownBears.com>.

*Ever True,  
Elrod*



# Dear Elrod,

*continued...*



Dear sir or ma'am,

Hello. My name is Jaems and I am looking for some help. I have just inherited 12 MILLION DOLLARS but I am unable to retrieve the money myself. I will give you 25 Percent of the \$\$\$ if you let me channel the money through your bank account. Please send bank account information and I will give you the money. Thanks and God bless

*Dear Jaems,*

Wow, you're even more generous than Lord Bankington! You can access our bank account with [redacted]

*Ever [redacted],  
Elrod*

**Dear Elrod,**

**I'm in love with the Princeton Band. How can I win their hearts?**

**Ever True,**

**Snelrod Idley**

*Dear Snelrod,*

Thanks so much for taking the time to write. I'm sure the Princeton Band will love you once they get to know how great you are. I can tell that you're a sweet, considerate, and dare-I-say handsome fellow. Once the Princeton Band sees how nice and thoughtful and funny and smart and humble you are, you'll sweep them off their feet. Go get 'em tiger!

*Ever True,  
Elrod*



*We hope you enjoyed our 2012 Fall Newsletter! Tune into our blog for more stories, video, and photos from throughout the semester! Hope to see you soon!*