



FOR THE FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW, WE OFFER SUGGESTIONS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS
BORN IN **THE INNOVATIVE HEARTS AND MINDS** OF BROWN ALUMS.

Box



THE HOLIDAYS COME EARLY AT THE BAM, WHERE THE mail in late summer brings taped-up boxes in all shapes and sizes, each containing evidence of the creative zeal that seems to drive so many Brown alumni. This year, one package revealed hand-hewn wooden objects whose lineage can be traced to storm-damaged branches an alumna collected on his Vermont farm. An alumna sent tote bags made in Brooklyn and another contributed area rugs she'd hand-braided in Maine, both from recycled cloth. ■ One of the more ephemeral gift ideas came from a California chef: pasture-raised black-pig bacon cured with brown sugar and smoked with apple wood. The most technologically sophisticated may be the iPad sleeves made of a substance that changes as it hits the ground, absorbing more impact than just about any affordable material out there. It's so effective that the company also manufactures athletic padding out of the stuff, in an attempt to ease the worries of soccer and football parents everywhere. ■ Again and again, such products demonstrate the innovative and entrepreneurial ways of Brown graduates. A few of their stories are featured in the following pages, reminding us that creativity is not just about making things; it's about an approach to life. Have a product you'd like to box up and show us next year? Let us know.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOEL BENJAMIN