Academic Leadership and Global Outreach at Heart of New Coexistence Program

The Center is pleased to announce the establishment of the Alan B. Slifka Program in Intercommunal Coexistence at Brandeis University. The new program, a successor to the three-year Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence, is supported by a grant of $5,000,000 from the Alan B. Slifka Foundation.

When it reaches the stage of full implementation, The Slifka Program in Intercommunal Coexistence will offer the first ever Master's program in coexistence. The University will begin an international search next year for a senior scholar-practitioner to design, win faculty approval for, and lead this new endeavor. As currently envisioned, the program will be directed to experienced practitioners who facilitate among parties on opposite sides of the divide in conflict regions around the world. Prospective students will likely include mediators and facilitators, as well as teachers, artists, members of the clergy, youth workers and others who, perhaps for reasons of historical circumstance, find themselves engaged in strengthening intercommunal relations as part of their lives as professionals, activists and citizens.

More immediately, the funds will allow for the enhancement of Brandeis’s undergraduate offerings in coexistence, and for continuing the Center’s global outreach work. Outreach programs will develop the partnerships we have been establishing with grassroots organizations around the world, particularly in Sri Lanka, South Africa, Northern Ireland, the Middle East, Guatemala, and in the United States. It will include...
Mission
The International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life at Brandeis University exists to illuminate the ethical dilemmas and obligations inherent in global and professional leadership, with particular focus on the challenges of racial, ethnic, and religious pluralism. Examining responses to past conflicts, acts of intervention, and failures to intervene, the Center seeks to enable just and appropriate responses in the future. Engaging leaders and future leaders of government, business, and civil society, the Center crosses boundaries of geography and discipline to link scholarship and practice through publications, programs, and projects.

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Selected Highlights of Fall and Winter 2001-02 Events

OCTOBER
Beyond Retribution: Towards a New Middle East, featuring Uri Avnery, journalist and leader in the Israeli peace movement

NOVEMBER
When Intent Makes All the Difference in the World: Economic Sanctions on Iraq and the Accusation of Genocide, colloquium by Dr. Joy Gordon ’80

After September 11: The View from Abroad, a discussion of current events with Brandeis International Fellows in human rights, intervention, and international law

DECEMBER
The Monstrous Case: Stalin’s Assault on the Jewish Antifascist Committee, a talk by Joshua Rubenstein, Northeast Regional Director of Amnesty International USA

AIDS Epidemic in Africa, a lecture by Dr. Lucy Steinitz, Catholic AIDS Action in Namibia, Africa

JANUARY
The War and the American Left, a lecture by Christopher Hitchens, The Nation

FEBRUARY
Freedom from Fear: Shaping the Human Rights Agenda Post-September 11, 2001, a lecture by Felice Gaer, Director of the Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights

A Promise and a Way of Life: White Antiracist Activism, featuring Becky Thompson Ph.D. ’86, sociology professor at Simmons College

Manual for a Raid: The Hijackers and Their Sources, a talk by Kanan Makiya, Brandeis University

MARCH
The Rock: Jerusalem’s Sacred Space, a symposium with Kanan Makiya, author of the new work of fiction, The Rock: A Tale of Seventh-Century Jerusalem
Center to Welcome International Judges in June

The Brandeis Institute for International Judges (BIIJ) will host an institute entitled The New International Jurisprudence: Building Legitimacy for International Courts and Tribunals during the week of June 9-15, 2002, at Brandeis University. The institute is the first is its kind with participation of judges from several international courts and tribunals, including the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and the African Court of Human and People’s Rights. The weeklong institute is by invitation only and is not open to the public.

The keynote address by Hans Corell, Under-Secretary General for Legal Affairs for the United Nations, will he held at 8 p.m. on Monday, June 10 at the Faculty Club, Brandeis University. This event is free and open to the public.

The institute is designed specifically for judges sitting on courts of international and transnational jurisdiction. Despite the rapid proliferation of international judicial and quasi-judicial bodies over the course of the last fifty years, the international community has not convened groups of international judges to discuss their work, and the implications and impact of their work. The institute will provide a contained and confidential space and time for reflection, learning, and judicial innovation in the rapidly evolving field of international law. While the institute faculty will focus on legal issues, the ultimate goal of the institute is to facilitate the exploration of the ethical issues inherent in international adjudication.

End of Life Care: Personal, Cultural, Ethical, and Legal Dilemmas in Death and Dying

The Brandeis Seminars in the Humanities and the Professions presents “End of Life Care: Personal, Cultural, Ethical and Legal Dilemmas in Death and Dying.” Judges, lawyers, physicians, and other health and human service professionals are engaged in life and death decision-making on a constant basis.

The goals of this pilot program are to provide literature-based seminars to increase the awareness and reflectivity of professionals who confront issues involving death and dying in their professional lives. The program will serve judges, lawyers, physicians, and other health and human service professionals.

This project is being developed under the leadership of Stephen Arons in collaboration with Mary Davis. Arons, a long time core faculty member of the Brandeis Seminars is a professor of legal studies at University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Davis, academic director of the Brandeis Seminars, is a professor of American and legal studies at Brandeis University.
The Human Rights Agenda in the Wake of September 11

On February 6, 2002 Felice Gaer, Director of the Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human spoke on Freedom from Fear: Shaping the Human Rights Agenda Post-September 11. The event was presented by The Andrei Sakharov Archives and Human Rights Center at Brandeis University, in conjunction with the Center. The following is an excerpt from her lecture.

Before September 11 the issues that were at the top of the human rights agenda were international criminal liability; the coming into force of the International Criminal Court; how to mainstream human rights concerns into UN peacekeeping efforts; how to make trade, investment, and business deals; how to make corporations aware and responsible for human rights conditions; how to better improve refugee, migrant, and women’s rights; and how to deal with the issues of racial, ethnic and religious discrimination as illustrated in the struggle over the Durban Declaration. Finally, the whole issue of economic/social and cultural rights has been a big issue on the agenda of international human rights groups.

Since September 11, the emerging human rights agenda has switched. Resources are limited. Where is the debate? The debate has begun to focus around what is a legitimate response to terrorism. Do we need to refine our concepts of military necessity such as who is a combatant, what is a territory, and what is a legitimate target? Do we need to refine our concepts of what is a human rights violation and who actually violates rights? Questions about military intervention are also high on the agenda (i.e. when and where to intervene militarily, whether to intervene only to protect human rights, and how to protect civilians under threat in armed conflict) . . . Efforts to thoughtfully adapt, but not weaken, human rights principles are very high on the agenda right now. However, they are not being addressed.

The issue of whether torture is a viable option in terms of international human rights and practical necessity is also high on the agenda. I will skip ahead on that and tell you the answer is NO . . . Today and since the end of the 18th century, the answer is clear — torture cannot be justified in any circumstance. It cannot be justified, not only because it is cruel, discriminatory, degrading, and destructive of the human personality, but because it does not work. The whole idea is to bring about confessions that are helpful, but people lie under torture. This raises issues that address both who and what you are as a society and also what is practical. Additionally high on the agenda after September 11th remains the issue of international criminal accountability with regard to the past. The International Criminal Court will come into effect before June of this year. There is a tremendous focus in the human rights community on accountability because it views the justice approach as the solution to the terrorism problem. However, it is not the only way to address terrorism. The UN Security Council recognizes the collective right of self-defense, not the right to bring people before international tribunal . . .

Finally, the human rights movement and what it can accomplish is high on the agenda. Should it stay as the small lonely voice of conscience? Or, can it retain the popular support that brought it from a weak position to one of dominance in the news media and importance in the policy making process? I would like to suggest that there are some issues and concerns that should be on the human rights agenda that are not. They begin with the importance of solidarity with victims. We need to think more about it means to have solidarity with victims, and with which victims. The human rights movement began with concern for the victims and it must never depart from that.

Second, there is a terribly important need for new dialogues to take place. I have spoken about dialogues within the human rights movement, but there is a tremendous need for dialogues with public officials and others outside the movement. Can rights indeed be balanced? Are there new threats? Can we refine any of those concepts? Should we provide for new instruments and new ways for implementing the human rights rules in different situations? Is terrorism today, international terrorism, substantively different in kind and nature in such a way that it would require some greater balancing of rights with security? . . .

A third area that needs to be high on the agenda is the importance of retaining public understanding. Public diplomacy is not just for governments. Human security includes human rights. It is civil and political rights; the economic, social, and cultural rights; the right
not to be killed as a bystander while an armed conflict is going on; and the right not to be killed as an innocent victim of terrorism. The freedom from fear is all about promoting and protecting human security, and freedom from fear requires public understanding and support.

A fourth issue that should be high on the agenda is the absolute centrality of fighting the enemies of human rights at home and abroad. There must be no free pass for dictators. There must be continued pressure on abusing countries, even if they are part of the coalition against terrorism, especially if they are part of the coalition. Again, the question is what kind of a society, what kind of world are you creating in which rights and individuals can be respected?

Fifth, it is crucially important to be working for successful outcomes to promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people, men and women, in Afghanistan. If that situation is not improved, the whole enterprise will diminish as will the movement for human rights. There is a crucial need to look for partners and to engage in political interaction. It is not politics by advocating, but politics as it is carried out in the real world. This means working out deals, compromises, and balances. It means creating an understanding of what you can and cannot do, and figuring out new ways to promote human rights at a time when human rights will also promote national security. It is important to recognize that although the justice approach is part of the solution, it is not the only alternative when dealing with international terrorism.

The words of Sakharov inspire. They remind us that the individual can make a difference. The life of Andrei Sakharov, more than his words, changed the moral climate because he always had his eye on the bigger picture, the just society, and the democratic order that would be open to exchange freedom of ideas and movement. John Kennedy summed it up best in his remark, “What is peace, after all, but a matter of human rights?” I think we have to recognize that as Sakharov said, “We are concerned not with words, but a willingness to create a more decent society.” If we keep that in mind, we have a very full agenda since September 11.

Center Offers September 11 Course

September 11, 2001 marks, among other things, a profound challenge to the way that we think about the world. Responding to that challenge, the Center launched a new Brandeis course, “September 11: Roots and Aftermath” in the spring semester of 2002.

The course is designed to introduce students to a wide variety of perspectives on this years events, and to encourage them to re-think their own passions and interests in that light. The instructors are Center director Daniel Terris and Center associate Kanan Makiya, an Iraqi-born writer who has written extensively on the Arab world.

Guest lecturers include Nation correspondent Christopher Hitchens, writer James Carroll, civil rights attorney Harvey Silverglate, and members of the Brandeis faculty speaking on radical Islam, weapons of mass destruction, and terrorist financial networks.

The syllabus and list of public lectures are posted on the Center’s web site.

Public Lecture Series

September 11: Roots and Aftermath

- The War and the American Left
  Christopher Hitchens, The Nation

- The World and American Innocence
  Daniel Terris, Brandeis University

- Manual for a “Raid”: The Hijackers and their Sources
  Kanan Makiya, Brandeis University

- Understanding Radical Islam
  Kanan Makiya and Yitzhak Nakash, Brandeis University; Hassan Mneimneh, Iraq Documentation Project

- From the Gulf War to September 11
  Kanan Makiya, Brandeis University

- Western Religion, Violence, and Peacemaking
  James Carroll, writer; Kanan Makiya and Arthur Green, Brandeis University

- A Global War on Terrorism? Political, Legal, and Ethical Problems
  Stanley Hoffmann, Harvard University

- Following the Money
  Lynne Federman, J.P Morgan/Chase Manhattan; Jane Hughes, Brandeis University

- Homeland Security and Civil Liberties
  Harvey Silverglate, Attorney

- September 11 and International Law
  Anne-Marie Slaughter, Harvard University

- Artistic Responses to Catastrophe
  Nancy Scott, Brandeis University; Ellen Driscoll, Rhode Island School of Design

- Weapons of Mass Destruction
  Henry Linschitz and Gregory Petsko, Brandeis University

“Future generations will ponder these cold-blooded attacks much in the same way people have examined earlier world-altering calamities . . . This course and others can play an important role as we attempt to more fully comprehend the horror of that tragic day.”

President Jehuda Reinharz
Daniel Terris is serving as program director for the inaugural summer of “Brandeis in the Berkshires,” a program designed to engage professional leaders in consideration of major issues of our time. Themes for the 2002 institutes, which will be held in Lenox, Massachusetts, are “American Jews in a Multicultural Society” and “Playing God: The Human Quest to Control Fate from Macbeth to September 11.”

Cynthia Cohen, director of the Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence, led a seminar on February 4, 2002, entitled “Working with Integrity: Ethical Inquiry for Peacebuilders” at the Program on International Conflict Analysis and Resolution (PICAR) at Harvard University’s Center for International Affairs. Marci McPhee, in her role as co-chair of Brandeis’ Religious Pluralism and Spirituality Committee, is continuing the very successful “Tuesday Last Lecture Series” on the Brandeis campus. The theme of the series is: “Why wait until a professor is dying to hear what s/he’s learned about life and how to live it?” These talks are held on Tuesday, to commemorate the late Brandeis professor Morrie Schwartz and the bestseller “Tuesdays with Morrie.”

In February of this year, Wendi Adelson ’01, former Ethics Center Student Fellow was awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship to pursue graduate studies in international relations at the University of Cambridge, England. Sari Nussenbein, Center board member and President of Al-Quds University, Jerusalem has been appointed the Palestinian political representative in Jerusalem.

2002 Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellows

Introducing the 2002 Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellows

Jocelyn Berger ’03 is pursuing an independent concentration in peace and conflict studies and is a student in the religious studies program. After graduation from high school in her hometown of Shaker Heights, OH, she spent a semester at Hebrew University and a semester living on an orthodox kibbutz in Israel. As a high school student, Jocelyn developed an interest in coexistence through her participation in a student group on race relations. At Brandeis, Jocelyn is a member of Students for a Just Society, the South Asian Club, Ahora!, the Activist Resource Center, and the Antiwar Coalition.

Miriam Kingsberg ’03, a history and psychology major, also studies economics, international studies and East Asian studies. She came to Brandeis from Short Hills, New Jersey but was raised in Tokyo. In addition to serving as a children’s services volunteer in rural India, Miriam has traveled extensively to nations such as Morocco and Thailand. She is a member of the University’s fencing team, the Justice staff, and interns with the Women’s Studies Center. Miriam also worked as an assistant teacher with the Brandeis Jewish Education Program.

Aran Lavi ’04, an East Asian studies and economics major, came to Brandeis from Ra’anana, Israel as a Malkin Scholar. Aran attributes his experiences at Lester B. Pearson College in Canada with solidifying his interest in coexistence. The College, one of eight United World Colleges, unites young people from around the globe to learn about diversity and community building. At Brandeis, Aran participates in the Arab-Israeli Dialogue group and helped organize a panel on violence in the Middle East.

Trang Nguyen ’03 is an economics and mathematics major, a French minor, and is in the international business program. Born and raised in Hanoi, Vietnam, Trang spent the year prior to coming to Brandeis in Illinois as part of a cultural exchange program. She is involved in a variety of activities at Brandeis, including serving as a teaching assistant, tutor in economics, and International Student Program Coordinator for Orientation 2001. She is also a member of Students for a Free Tibet, the International Club, and the French Association. Trang hopes to embark on a career in international economic development.

George Okrah ’03 came to Brandeis from Bronx, NY where he lived for three years after having relocated from Ghana, West Africa. An American studies and sociology major, George is also a student in the legal studies and journalism programs. He is a member of the Posse program and also serves a peer mentor with Student Support Services. In addition to his studies, George works as a supervisor with Fulfillment, Plus, Inc, a company in Waltham. This past summer, he interned with the Associated Press in Germany and participated in the bus tour “Possibilities for Change in American Communities.”

Susan Ulrich ’03 is pursuing a double major in American studies and politics and began her education at Brandeis as a member of the Transitional Year Program. She is from South Boston, MA, where she was very active in her community as a member of the youth group “Southie Survivors.” The group was developed in response to the increased rates of violence and suicide among South Boston’s youth and is dedicated to empowering the community’s young people. Susan has also worked with the Office of the Attorney General in Boston and Camp Joy, a summer camp for children with disabilities.
Fellows Meet for First of Three Institutes

The Brandeis International Fellows in Human Rights, Intervention, and International Law met for the first of three Institutes in November, 2001. The Fellows program convenes ten scholars, educators, activists and judges from around the world for a combination of collaborative sessions and individual reflection. The week-long gathering focused on intensive discussions designed to introduce the Fellows to each others’ work, and to build connections among them for their future work together.

The core of the program consisted of ten hour-long discussions, each of which examined the professional experience and perspective of one of the Fellows. Topics ranged from a philosophical dialogue on the question “what are rights,” to discussions of gender bias in the judiciary, the proposed combined national-international tribunals in Cambodia and Sierra Leone, and the diplomatic debates over armed intervention. These conversations began the process of creating a common basis of knowledge on which collaborative work can be built.

In addition, the Fellows engaged in dialogues with Center Advisory Board member Justice Richard Goldstone and with Michael Ignatieff, Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights at Harvard University. Meetings with faculty, students and staff from Brandeis University and a public panel discussion with Fellows from India, Haiti, and England on the international perspectives of the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks rounded out the week.

The pilot judicial education project scheduled for June 2002 — The Brandeis Institute for International Judges (BIIJ) — was of particular interest to the Fellows, who left Brandeis University eager to contribute to that program. (see related article on page 3.) The next meeting of the Fellows will coincide with the BIIJ, and several Fellows will lead sessions during the judges’ institute. Through their individual and joint work in June and beyond, the Fellows will develop sessions for use at future institutes with international judges.
New Publications from the Center

- The report on the Global Partnerships for Education project is now available. The project links Brandeis students and faculty with education programs in Chelsea, Massachusetts, the Caribbean island nation of Grenada, and Haifa, Israel to create teams that explore family, community, and the cultural, aesthetic, historical, and intellectual inheritances of youth as sources of learning. Contact the Center for a copy or view it online.

- Working with Integrity: A Guidebook for Peacebuilders Asking Ethical Questions by Coexistence Program Director, Cynthia Cohen is now available online, www.brandeis.edu/ethics.

Middle East Youths Share Community Histories

Members of CHYME, Community Histories by Youth in the Middle East (formerly The Middle East Youth Leaders Exchange Project) participated in a planning institute at Brandeis University in October 2001. The year-long project based at Brandeis University, engages 15 young professionals working with youth in Palestine, Israel, and Jordan in designing and implementing community research projects that will enhance communication among young people from the three areas.