FROM THE DIRECTOR – DANIEL TERRIS

Growth, Change, and Continuity

The International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life was built on the conviction that developing and nurturing active communities across borders and disciplines creates the knowledge and inspiration for meaningful social, institutional, and political change.

Our programs for international judges foster vital dialogue between far-flung courts, strengthening the system of global justice. We helped develop the field of coexistence by supporting practitioners around the world with publications and institutes that advance tools and methods for creating just and stable societies. Our network of Brandeis students and alumni has brought the wisdom and experience of hundreds of NGOs from dozens of countries into Brandeis classrooms—and bolstered by their studies they have moved out to their professional lives with an even stronger commitment to improving the world.

This fall, the Center extends that practice of community building by taking on a new shape. Following much planning, we have found a new home for our Masters Program in Coexistence and Conflict: Brandeis University’s Growth, Change, and Continuity.

Climate Change and the Choices We Make: A Year of Exploration

A line of students, faculty, and staff several people wide circled the Shapiro Campus Center atrium, surrounding a patchwork of freshly painted T-shirts carefully laid out on newspapers on the floor to dry in the February sun streaming through the tall windows.

At the end of the line: Hoseob Yoon – artist, professor, environmental activist – painting T-shirts to order, mostly with environmental themes, some with a design featuring a large “B” created just for this visit to campus.

Yoon, a South Korean graphic artist and professor of visual communication design at Kookmin University in Seoul who has devoted his career and his life to protecting the environment, was in residence last February as the Center’s fourth Distinguished Visiting Practitioner.

The Yoon residency was a major part of the Ethics Center’s engagement in a 2009-10 campus-wide initiative focused on climate change. Academic departments and student groups brought notable thinkers and creators to campus, hosted lectures and discussions, and sponsored some more unusual events, all designed to raise awareness on the Brandeis campus about climate change and the choices we make with regard to the environment.

Professor Yoon’s residency also featured a gallery talk with students and faculty members about artwork, activism, and teaching, and how they interact; a keynote address, “The Green Canvas: The Artist as Environmental Activist;” and an informal conversation with students, hosted by the Korean Student Association in a dormitory commons.

His visit culminated with the T-shirt painting session, hosted by Students for Environmental Action. “Designing a Greener Future,” modeled on Yoon’s regular practice of painting T-shirts for passersby.

continued on p. 7

The Distinguished Visiting Practitioner Program

The Ethics Center brings respected practitioners from a range of fields to the Brandeis campus for several days to examine the ethical challenges and dilemmas of their work. Brandeis faculty members from any department are invited to propose future distinguished visiting practitioners.

For program and proposal details: brandeis.edu/ethics/atbran/ practitioner

Environmentally-themed T-shirts designed and painted by Hoseob Yoon drying on the floor of the Shapiro Campus Center atrium.
The International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life

Mission: To develop effective responses to conflict and injustice by offering innovative approaches to coexistence, strengthening the work of international courts, and encouraging ethical practice in civic and professional life.

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The 2010 Sorensen Fellows had the opportunity to meet with Theodore C. “Ted” Sorensen during his visit to the Brandeis campus in March. The Fellows discussed their internship plans, and asked Sorensen about his work in the Kennedy Administration and beyond.

The undergraduate Sorensen Fellowship honors Ted Sorensen for his lifelong commitment to public service and his ten years as Founding Chair of the Center’s International Advisory Board. Sorensen was policy advisor, legal counsel, and speechwriter to President John F. Kennedy, has practiced international law for four decades, and is a widely published author on the presidency and foreign affairs.

The 2010 Sorensen Fellows worked this summer on a diverse set of projects in five cities in four countries on three continents: Cairo, Egypt; Moshi, Tanzania; Bangalore and Mumbai, India; and the Loma region of Ecuador.

Read about the 2010 Sorensen Fellows’ projects: brandeis.edu/ethics/atbrandeis/sorensenfellowship/bios2010.html.

The deadline to submit a preliminary internship proposal for feedback for the 2011 Sorensen Fellowship is October 6, 2010 (optional). The deadline for the complete final application is November 1, 2010. For details: brandeis.edu/ethics/atbrandeis/sorensenfellowship
Nathan Cummings Foundation Supports *Acting Together* Educational Toolkit, Book, and Documentary

People working on social justice, post-conflict coexistence, and peacebuilding do not commonly intersect with those in the fields of the arts and culture. The *Acting Together* project, initiated through a collaboration between the Ethics Center and Theatre Without Borders (theatrewithoutborders.com), is designed to strengthen work at the nexus of the arts and peacebuilding.

A new print anthology and film, both titled *Acting Together*, document exemplary peacebuilding performance efforts around the globe, and are intended to serve as resources for education and advocacy.

The impact of this project will be greatly magnified by support from the Nathan Cummings Foundation, which has awarded $75,000 to the Center’s programs in Peacebuilding and the Arts to enable the creation of an educational “toolkit” to accompany the *Acting Together* anthology and film, and to aid the distribution of these resources to educators and practitioners doing related work.

“In the *Acting Together* project we have learned that collaborations between artists and peacebuilders can be very effective, yet they are fraught with challenges,” says Cynthia Cohen, Director of the Center’s Programs in Peacebuilding and the Arts. “Artists worry about their work being overly instrumentalized, while peacebuilders and funders generally need specific, documentable outcomes. Support from the Nathan Cummings Foundation will allow us to reach artists and peacebuilders and help them engage creatively with this tension, respecting the strengths and the needs of both fields.”

Each element of the *Acting Together* toolkit – discussion guides, policy briefs, and short video discussion-starters – is crafted to stimulate conversation about an issue or dilemma raised by this work. The toolkit links the knowledge generated through the *Acting Together* project to particular constituencies, including students, practitioners, policy makers, and funders, addressing their distinct needs, reservations, and concerns.

The anthology will consist of two volumes of case studies and emerging theory; the first will be published in June 2011 by New Village Press. The film is based on interviews with the artists and researchers who contributed to the anthology; it will be launched at the La Mama Experimental Theatre in New York in September 2010 (see box below).

“The film’s subjects inspire me,” says Allison Lund, who edited the documentary, and produced it along with Cohen. Lund, a filmmaker and editor who has had several films selected for national and international festivals, hopes *Acting Together* “will bring to light the courageous actions being taken by intellectuals and artists who believe in their work as an affirmation of creativity over destruction.”

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Acting Together documents performances ranging from reconciliation rituals (e.g. at left, from Australia), to staged works (e.g. at right, from Serbia), to community-engaged theater.

Visit the redesigned Peacebuilding and the Arts website: brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts

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**Coming Soon**

*Acting Together* will be launched with a special screening at a major international conference on theater and peacebuilding in conflict zones at the La Mama Experimental Theatre in New York City on September 23, 2010. The anthology will be published by New Village Press in two volumes beginning in June 2011.

Visit brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts for:

- summaries of the case studies
- biographies
- updates on events
- links to related resources
- the trailer for the film

To be updated on the anthology and film, complete the contact form on the website or call 781-736-5001
“If we are truly committed to social justice, . . . we have to work to make it happen.”

In 2009 the Ethics Center launched Advocacy for Policy Change, an initiative designed to encourage citizens to bring moral and ethical insights to the process of making and revising laws. The centerpiece of this initiative focuses on Brandeis undergraduate students, through a Legal Studies Program course introduced in spring 2010, taught by Professor Melissa Stimell.

“Advocacy for Policy Change” (LGLS 161b) combines an investigation of the ethical dilemmas that arise in the process of lawmaking with hands-on advocacy work with entities seeking to reform laws or to propose new ones. Students choose existing laws they feel could be credibly challenged on ethical or moral grounds, or proposed laws being promoted to redress perceived wrongs.

Working in teams, students research the issues and design and implement advocacy projects to address a particular law. They are mentored by a state legislator and/or a member of an advocacy organization, who helps them understand the lawmaking process, connect with colleagues, and set realistic goals.

Vanessa Kerr ’11 says the course stretched her thinking on social justice, a central component of the Brandeis University mission. “In ‘Advocacy for Policy Change,’ my belief in social justice was challenged,” she says. “Through being immersed in an advocacy organization, lobbying legislators, and personally joining the fight for positive change in state law, I now understand that social justice is not something to study, or merely believe in. If we are truly committed to social justice, then we have to work to make it happen.”

Each student documents and reflects upon the experience in an “advocacy journal.” What follows is a brief, edited excerpt from the advocacy journal of Kerr. She and her team partner, Morgan Manley ’11, advocated for legislation to grant undocumented immigrants the ability to attend Massachusetts public colleges at in-state tuition rates.

Read more about the Advocacy for Policy Change initiative: brandeis.edu/ethics/atbrandeis/advocacy

Advocacy Journal – Vanessa Kerr ’11
March 23, 2010

Morgan and I rushed across the Boston Common, inordinately heavy camera and tripod in tow. Somehow, between the two of us, we balanced an umbrella over our heads and luggage, chatting excitedly over the noise of the rain about the meeting we were going to have with Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz. When we decided to document our project on film, we thought it would be great to get a legislator on camera to talk about the In-State Tuition Bill. Today it was happening.

We got to the Senator’s office and breathlessly announced ourselves to the assembly of aides in the office. One looked to the other and I began to suspect that something was amiss.

“I’m sorry for the misunderstanding,” Morgan replied politely. “Would the senator be willing to speak with us off-camera?”

There was a brief discussion and someone disappeared further into the office to speak with the senator. The aide came back out and asked us what the film was for. We explained it was for a class project, and we wouldn’t show it anywhere else without her permission. Thankfully, the senator agreed to go through with the interview.

Morgan and I had heard Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz speak several times and were now finally getting to meet her. Her easy-going nature dispelled my nervousness and as the interview progressed her commitment to the immigrant youth of Massachusetts became apparent. She told the story of how her father came to this country with only a few dollars in his pocket and went on to become the first Latino astronaut.

When the interview was finished we thanked her and assured her once more that we wouldn’t show the interview anywhere else without her permission. She smiled and said that the caution was really for her media coordinator’s sake, who was out of town and didn’t like her to do on-camera interviews without his approval. As we left, she told us that she expected to see us around the Legislature, advocating for our cause.

I smile to remember her parting words. By the end of the semester, I think I spent more time in the State House advocating and attending events than in my own house!
Sixteen judges from thirteen international courts and tribunals gathered at the seventh Brandeis Institute for International Judges (BIIJ) in Salzburg, Austria this July.

The participants represented a wide spectrum of international justice institutions, including long-time supporters such as the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, and the European Court of Human Rights; as well as two institutions participating for the first time: the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

The theme of this year’s Institute, “Toward an International Rule of Law,” encompassed topics including the fairness of international law, the accessibility of international courts and tribunals, and the impact of diversity on the establishment of an international rule of law. The Institute also continued a tradition of examining ethical issues faced by members of the international judiciary.

“This year’s theme was particularly interesting,” said Fausto Pocar, a judge and past president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. “It allowed us to discuss a number of topics pertinent to our work in an integrated manner.”

The institute also featured a keynote address by United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Patricia O’Brien, and an informal session led by Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court Anthony Kennedy.

Over the past eight years the BIIJ has developed a reputation among members of the international judiciary for offering a unique opportunity to discuss diverse aspects of their work with colleagues from far-flung institutions in an intimate and relaxed setting.

Since 2002 the Ethics Center has hosted more than 65 international judges and law experts at the Brandeis Institute for International Judges. Participants have met in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, and the United States to reflect on the practical challenges as well as philosophical aspects of their work, share best practices, and expand their circle of professional acquaintances.

Students Encounter International Justice at The Hague

In 2010 Brandeis collaborated with the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies at the University of Leiden to launch a summer study abroad program at The Hague in the Netherlands. Eighteen Brandeis undergraduates spent six weeks exploring how international law seeks to further peace, justice, and human rights amidst the hard realities of a complex world.

The program culminated a process begun with contacts at The Hague made by Dan Terris, Director of the Ethics Center and Brandeis Vice President for Global Affairs, with the idea of creating a student learning experience that built on the Center’s expertise in the field of international justice. Professor Richard Gaskins (Legal Studies), the Office of Global Affairs, and the Office for Study Abroad developed this idea in detail, and ensured a successful pilot program.

“The students exceeded my expectations,” said Gaskins, who led the program and taught with guest faculty from the University of Leiden. “We really tested their endurance, setting the bar very high, and I’m impressed with how much they learned so quickly.”

Along with coursework, students met with judges, advocates, and policy specialists, including Hague Prosecutor Ekkehard Withopf and former NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. They applied readings to events taking place in the courthouses, visiting the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, and the Special Criminal Tribunals for Sierra Leone and the Former Yugoslavia.

“I’m constantly thinking and engaged,” wrote Shira Strauss ’11 during the program. “Taught by international lawyers and academics, we’ve covered everything from overviews of international institutions to the specific definitions and histories of international crimes to cross-examination workshops. It has all been extremely interesting!”

During workshops at the Grotius Centre’s Bilingual Summer School, the Brandeis students connected with graduate students and professionals from all over the world. Among the interactive exercises was a moot court competition. The three Brandeis teams did well, and one distinguished itself by winning the top prize – after competing in the final round against a French-speaking team of seasoned lawyers – a fitting achievement for students representing a school named for Justice Louis D. Brandeis.

Brandeis plans to continue this program, with the continued involvement of the Ethics Center’s international justice community. For details contact the Office of Study Abroad: abroad@brandeis.edu.

For more on Brandeis Programs in International Justice and Society, visit brandeis.edu/ethics/internationaljustice/biij
Students Engage with World Leaders

The Center, in collaboration with the Social Justice Leadership Series, invited Brandeis students to small, informal conversations with eminent members of the Center’s International Advisory Board in March.

In “The Obama Administration, One Year On” former U.S. Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker, lawyer and former John F. Kennedy legal advisor and speechwriter Theodore Sorensen, and businessman and philanthropist Norbert Weissberg discussed the political landscape and challenges facing the Administration.

In “Update from Across the Globe” the President of Al-Quds University in Jerusalem Sari Nusseibeh, Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary General for Somalia Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah of Mauritania, and Justice of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka Shiranee Tilakawardane spoke about recent developments connected with their work.

“The question is,” said Nusseibeh during the Q&A, “how can somebody step in and help, not on the basis that he’s on one side against the other, but with the understanding that he is in fact for both sides.”

Justice Richard J. Goldstone of South Africa, Chair of the Ethics Center’s International Advisory Board, and diplomat and jurist Hans Corell of Sweden were guests of the “International Law and Organizations” course (LGLS 125b).

Interested in Ethics Center Cosponsorship?
The Center provides financial and/or publicity support for selected student-, department- and faculty-sponsored events and activities throughout the year. Proposals are reviewed monthly by a committee of faculty, staff, and students. For the application, complete guidelines, and upcoming deadlines, see: brandeis.edu/ethics/events/cosponsorship
in downtown Seoul, was one of the most unusual – and most popular – events of his residency.

In March, the Center continued its commitment to the campus-wide climate change initiative by hosting Changing People in a Changing Climate? The Ethical Implications of Climate Disruption, an interdisciplinary conversation on the ethical implications of climate change, with organizers Charlie Chester of Environmental Studies and Irving Epstein of the Chemistry Department.

The multi-part event brought together Michael Appell of the Brandeis International Business School; Bernadette Brooten of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and Classics; Cristina Espinosa of the Sustainable International Development Program of the Heller School; and sculptor Tory Fair, a professor in the Department of Fine Arts.

Changing People included a slideshow of student environmental installations; and the first screening of a short film of Brandeis community members’ perceptions of climate change and our personal and collective responsibilities, produced by Charlie Radin, Brandeis Director of Global Communications and Operations, followed by responses from the panel.

Changing People was introduced by Saleem Ali, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Vermont, and author of Treasures of the Earth: Need, Greed, and a Sustainable Future.

“Should we think about resources as a planetary trust?” asked Ali in his keynote. “Think about it in terms of contingency planning. But my argument is that we must not neglect our responsibility as humans. We in a university have a role to find solutions to problems ultimately. At some level, that’s the goal in any department. You are channeling that great human endeavor of finding solutions. So, that remains an ethical imperative as well.”

Learn more:
- Read brief essays by the panel sharing their perspectives on climate change: brandeis.edu/ethics/events/ChangingClimate.html
- Explore the issues with the Ethical Inquiry “Who Bears Responsibility for the Environment?”. brandeis.edu/ethics/ethicalinquiry/2010/february.html

The Yoon residency was hosted by Eric Olson, Senior Lecturer in Biology and the Heller School. For more about Yoon’s residency, life, and work: brandeis.edu/ethics/events/Yoon.html

In a continuing collaboration between Hoseob Yoon and Brandeis, one of Yoon’s designs was the logo of a set of campus sustainability initiatives around green commuting. Visit the Brandeis Campus Sustainability Initiative website: brandeis.edu/campussustainability

(Above) Professors Cristina Espinosa and Bernadette Brooten (l-r) discuss the ethical implications of climate disruption.

(Left) During a gallery talk Hoseob Yoon explains his design for a Brandeis T-shirt.

(Brandeis Green Commuter Day
Friday April 23, 2010

Growth, Change, and Continuity
continued from page 1

Heller School for Social Policy and Management.

The Heller School, with a 50-year tradition of blending sophisticated analysis with real-world practice, is the ideal permanent home for the M.A. Program. The Coexistence and Conflict Program and its longstanding Heller School partner the Masters Program in Sustainable International Development can continue to build mutually beneficial connections between students, faculty members, and practitioners in the field.

Coexistence International (CI), engaged in the vital work of building bridges between the coexistence field and fields such as human rights, democracy-building, and economic development, will also move to Heller.

We extend our thanks and gratitude to the faculty and staff who have built the M.A. Program and CI: Mari Fitzduff, Ted Johnson, Anne Gudaitis, Jessica Berns, and John Moore. At the Heller School they will remain our Brandeis colleagues, and we anticipate with pleasure and pride much fruitful collaboration as we build communities for knowledge and action.

The Center continues to be the home for pathbreaking programs in peacebuilding and the arts, our flagship program for international judges, the undergraduate Sorensen Fellowship, and extensive programming at Brandeis.

Indeed, 2010-11 promises to be a banner year, with the publication of a major anthology on theater and peacebuilding and the release of a companion documentary (page 3), our seventh Brandeis Institute for International Judges (page 3), and the continued development of the Advocacy for Policy Change initiative (page 4).

We look forward to new ventures and new opportunities to build networks of knowledge and practice that strengthen the quest for peace and justice.
Report on South American Judicial Colloquium now available in Spanish

Coexistence Focus Papers newly translated to Spanish and French
Coexistence International recently published its first Spanish translation, “¿Qué es la convivencia y por qué adoptar un enfoque complementario?” (“What is Coexistence and Why a Complementary Approach?”), already available in French, and two new French translations: “Accent sur la Coexistence et le Renforcement de la Démocratie en Afrique Occidentale” (“Focus on Coexistence and Democracy-Building in West Africa”), and “Accent Sur la Coexistence et les Droits de la Personne” (“Focus on Coexistence and Human Rights”). These and many other publications are available at www.coexistence.net and by request at coexistenceintl@brandeis.edu.

“Key Issues in Coexistence and Education”
The newest installment in the Coexistence International Focus Papers series, “Key Issues in Coexistence and Education,” compares and contrasts the education policy choices of Ireland, Israel, the Netherlands, the United States, and others, and discusses how education relates to the creation of shared societies, acknowledging that it can be an opportunity both to reinforce a common national identity and to recognize the diverse cultures within a nation.

The Center is pleased to welcome Thomas Buergenthal to its International Advisory Board. A United States citizen, Judge Buergenthal has been a judge on the 15-member International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague since 2000, and will be resigning from the Court in September 2010. He is a former President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and a former member of the UN Human Rights Committee. Recipient of the Gruber Foundation International Justice Prize and member of the Ethics Commission of the International Olympic Committee, he has been re-appointed Lobinger Professor of Comparative Law and Jurisprudence at the George Washington University Law School, where he taught before his election to the ICJ. Judge Buergenthal is author or co-author of numerous books and law review articles on international law and international human rights topics. His memoir A Lucky Child: A Memoir of Surviving Auschwitz as a Young Boy was published in 2009.

Read or download this newsletter online (PDF): brandeis.edu/ethics/publications/newsletters.html