FROM THE DIRECTOR EMERITUS
DANIEL TERRIS

Change and Continuation

I am writing from the city of Jerusalem. After 20 years leading the Ethics Center and nearly 26 years at Brandeis University, I have taken on a new challenge. On August 1st I became the new dean of Al-Quds Bard College of Arts & Sciences (AQB), a college within Al-Quds University (AQU), a Palestinian institution.

It’s a big change, but in many ways it feels like a natural continuation. My new position here grew out of a long association that I nurtured between Brandeis and AQU, beginning with an invitation to AQU president Dr. Sari Nusseibeh to serve as the Center’s first Distinguished Visitor in 1998. That catalyzed dozens of exchanges involving hundreds of faculty, students, and administrators from both institutions. So coming to Al-Quds University is a bit like moving into my second home.

AQB is a college of 500 students within AQU, offering students a liberal arts curriculum in English – the only program of its kind within the Palestinian universities. Students receive a degree from AQU, and also one from Bard College, so they have both a Palestinian and an American diploma, a tremendous asset as they seek opportunities at home and abroad.

The Ethics Center Celebrates 20 Years!
Conversations, Tributes and Performances

The year: 1998.

The spark: A gift from Abraham Feinberg H ’61, former Chair of the Brandeis Board of Trustees, a successful businessman and philanthropist who sought, in the words of President Emeritus Jehuda Reinharz, to “make contributions to...coexistence and ethics around the world.”

The result: The establishment of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life, founded with a 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.

The impact: Twenty years of creating and nurturing programs with reach on campus and around the world, including the Brandeis International Fellows program; the Brandeis Institute for International Judges; the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts; the Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation (CAST) minor; the Masters Program in Coexistence and Conflict (now at the Heller School); the Sorensen Fellowship; the annual ‘DEIS Impact Festival of Social Justice and ENACT: the Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation ... and supporting countless other programs at Brandeis in collaboration with our University colleagues, including hosting the Gittler Prize and the Richman Fellowship on behalf of the Office of the President.

In March, the Ethics Center celebrated this history and its 20th anniversary with a symposium, a gala reception, and an evening of music, poetry and dance.

For the symposium “Democracies in Peril: The Role of the University,” the Center brought together a panel of thinkers and practitioners from academia, policymaking and government, the arts, law, activism and organizing to discuss pressing issues.

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Honoring Two Ethics Center Leaders

This year, two of the founding staff members of the Ethics Center bade farewell. Center Director Daniel Terris and Associate Director Marci McPhee were both instrumental in the conceptualization and founding of the Ethics Center 20 years ago. Their impact at the Ethics Center, Brandeis University, and around the world will be felt for years to come, carried forward by the people and programs they supported. Tributes to Dan and Marci, and videos of celebrations for each of them, can be found at brandeis.edu/ethics.

Marci McPhee and Dan Terris at the 1999 Sorensen Fellowship showcase.

Staff Highlights

In April, Cynthia Cohen was a keynote speaker at the “A Struggle for Peace” conference organized by the Dutch United Nations Student Association Utrecht at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. Cynthia Cohen contributed the chapter “Understanding an Enemy is Like Understanding a Poem: Art and Peace in Theory and Practice” to the Handbook of Research on Promoting Peace Through Practice, Academia, and the Arts, published in September. Cynthia Cohen was named guest editor of an arts-focused special issue of The International Journal of Transitional Justice to be published in 2020. ENACT Academic Program Director Melissa Stimell was named Interim Director of the Ethics Center in September. (See page 8.) Leigh Swigart spoke about the growing domination of the English language at the International Criminal Court at the “Multilingualism in International Organizations and in International Co-operation” conference hosted in May at the United Nations in New York. In June, at the iCourts PhD Summer School at the University of Copenhagen Faculty of Law, Leigh Swigart discussed how institutions of international criminal justice seek to bridge linguistic and culture gaps. David Weinstein visited ENACT Faculty Fellow Lynne Chandler-Garcia at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado in July.

New Publication:

Progress in Process: Stories of Growth Towards Justice

The 2017 Sorensen Fellowship Anthology

In “Progress in Process” the 2017 Sorensen Fellows reflect on their internship experiences in Kumasi, Ghana; Pretoria, South Africa; and Baltimore, Boston, the Bronx and Chicago in the United States.

This is the final Sorensen Fellowship anthology, with the conclusion of program last fall after 20 years.

This and all Sorensen Fellowship anthologies are available online as PDFs, listed chronologically, as well as organized by region. It is a collection of deeply thoughtful, insightful, and critical writing by the 121 alumni of the Sorensen Fellowship. brandeis.edu/ethics/publications/sorensen_publications.html

In March, alumni from 20 years of the Sorensen Fellowship gathered for a virtual reunion. Explore updates from some of the 121 Sorensen Fellowship alumni: brandeis.edu/ethics/atbrandeis/sorensenfellowship/20yearsoffellows
State-Level Legislative Change in Focus: The Second ENACT Institute

At a time when people across the United States are looking toward state and local government with a heightened focus, ENACT: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation, an innovative program that engages undergraduates in state-level legislative change through an experiential approach, is expanding.

“In our current political times, my students are looking to not just learn about politics but to apply that knowledge to the world around them,” said new ENACT Faculty Fellow Stephen Danley, Professor of Public Policy and Administration at Rutgers University–Camden. “The ENACT model provides support for professors like myself who believe students are most engaged when they’re doing.”

In May, the Ethics Center welcomed to Brandeis the newest cohort of ENACT Faculty Fellows for a multiday institute.

The 13 new Faculty Fellows hail from Alabama, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, and Pennsylvania. They join a thriving national network of 16 Fellows who have created and taught courses designed to foster civic activism, expanding the program’s reach to a total of 29 states. All teach at colleges and universities located in or near state capitals.

The new Fellows were joined at the Institute by six Fellows from the inaugural cohort, Brandeis program staff, and guest speakers. ENACT Academic Program Director Melissa Stimell, whose Brandeis ENACT course “Advocacy for Policy Change” serves as the model for the program, offered her guidance and feedback, and Fellows shared their experiences teaching ENACT courses across the country.

“I am very impressed with the intuitiveness of the ENACT program in terms of its goals for student civic engagement,” said new ENACT Faculty Fellow Stella Rouse, Professor of Government and Politics and Director of the Center for American Politics and Citizenship at the University of Maryland, College Park. “Yet it is really the road map and its adaptability that makes the program unique.”

At the Massachusetts State House, Fellows met with state legislators and their staff and were recognized from the floor of the House by the Speaker while the legislature was in session. Representative Jay Kaufman ’68 MA ’73, ENACT’s Distinguished Legislator, and Representative Jonathan Hecht, who has been a frequent guest lecturer at the Brandeis ENACT course, also met with the Fellows.

“The strength of ENACT lies in our growing network of skilled faculty members, dedicated students, and engaged alumni,” said ENACT Coordinator David Weinstein. “Each of our Faculty Fellows brings to ENACT knowledge from their discipline and wisdom from the civic engagement work they have been doing. Bringing this group from around the country together in person for the ENACT Institute – and continuing our collaboration throughout the year – has produced incredible learning for ENACT students throughout our network.”

ENACT is made possible by a generous gift from Ethics Center Board member Norbert Weissberg and his wife, former Board member Judith Schneider. The program is also supported by Ethics Center Board member Mark Friedman and by the Rice Family Foundation.

For more about ENACT and to sign up for updates: go.brandeis.edu/ENACT
of today. What part should universities play in the public arena? Are democratic institutions under threat in the U.S. and/or around the world? To what extent is increasing inequality a threat to democratic values? How should universities address threats to higher education itself? Panelists’ reflections on these and other questions can be seen in video available on the Center’s website.

At the reception that followed the symposium, people who have been a part of the Center’s work and people impacted by that work over two decades gathered to celebrate what the Center has accomplished – and what it is now doing.

“To me, what’s most important is the sense of community, everything that all of you and so many others have done to help build this Center,” said Dan Terris, now Director Emeritus of the Center, at the reception. “It’s really been a genuine collective effort about building bridges between academic life and the life outside, about using knowledge to make a real-world impact at the community level, at the state level, at the national level, and at the international level.”

Marty Wyngaarden Krauss, John Stein Professor of Disability Research, Emerita at the Heller School for Social Policy and Research, has worked closely with the Ethics Center for many years, particularly during her tenure as provost of the University. The Center, she said, “really provides a very fluid and inter-disciplinary, very no-boundaries view about what the world of ethics is and how you express it culturally, you express it legally, you express it politically, you express it socially. It brings all of those various facets about the core of what an ethical life, what an ethical person has, and how that’s expressed in various ways.”

The celebratory events concluded with “A Powerful Fire: Performances to Energize Our Next 20 Years.” The audience was treated to moving poetry by Brandeis creative writing professor Elizabeth Bradfield and 2016 Sorensen Fellow Marcelo Brociner ’18, an incredible dance performance by Ethics Center International Advisory Board member Germaine Ingram, and an electrifying performance by Center Associate Jane Sapp joined by Michael Carter and OJ Martori, musicians who have been working with Sapp since their elementary school years.

Video of the 20th anniversary symposium, reception and performances are available online. Visit brandeis.edu/ethics/events/20thAnniversary.html

At the Ethics Center, what’s past is never really past. The people who have enriched our work are making a difference worldwide. The knowledge and insights generated at the Center are continually preserved, shared, and reconsidered anew.

As the Ethics Center moves into its third decade, we invite you to connect or re-connect with us. Explore all that the Center has to share from those 20 years, and join us as we continue our work to advance the cause of justice and peace!

brandeis.edu/ethics

“Democracies in Peril” panelists (l-r) Richard Goldstone H ’04, Retired Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, former Chief Prosecutor of the United Nations Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and Member and former Chair of the Center’s International Advisory Board; Leah Susman ’18, National Campaign Chair of J Street U and 2017 Sorensen Fellow; Rajesh Sampath, Associate Professor of the Philosophy of Justice, Rights, and Social Change and Associate Director of the Master’s Program in Sustainable International Development at the Heller School; and Jay Kaufman ’68 MA ’73, Member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, founding director of Beacon Leadership Collaborative, and Member of the Center’s International Advisory Board.
Hope is a Discipline: Fighting for Justice in Perilous Times

Vanita Gupta, president and chief executive of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, was the 2018 Richman Distinguished Fellow in Public Life. She is the first woman and the first child of immigrants to run the largest civil and human rights coalition in the nation. Vanita Gupta “is a fighter for justice and for courage” in her life and in her work, said Marya Levenson, the Harry S. Levitan Director of the Brandeis Education Program, in her introduction to the award lecture. The Richman Fellowship recognizes individuals active in public life whose contributions have had a significant impact on improving American society, strengthening democratic institutions, advancing social justice or increasing opportunities for all citizens. The Fellowship is hosted by the Ethics Center on behalf of the Office of the President. The following is an excerpt from Vanita Gupta’s lecture.

Video of the full lecture and an interview with Vanita Gupta are online: brandeis.edu/richmanfellow/videos

I’m a civil rights lawyer, and I have been my whole adult career. And as a civil rights lawyer I often talk about hope. In fact, I don’t think you can be a civil rights lawyer without a profound reservoir of hope.

...Why should we be hopeful? How can we be hopeful? And what in this moment is really the case for hope?

I firmly believe that hope is a discipline. It’s a muscle that we have to exercise. And the strength of this muscle lies in our history.

It lies in the stories of real people and real communities and real leaders who have stared down injustice over some of the most oppressive contexts and times and they’ve decided to fight back. Sometimes with the help of government and sometimes without. And it lies in the knowledge that although the arc of our moral universe may be long – very long – it bends towards justice.

It was really the hopeful determination of the enslaved who bravely resisted. And of the abolitionists who shook the nation’s conscience. And of the soldiers who broke its chains. It was the hopeful determination of the students who sat at lunch counters in Greensboro, North Carolina, and of the brave who marched at Selma.

It was the hopeful determination of lawyers who litigated Brown v. Board of Education and Miranda v. Arizona and on and on to try to level the playing field, to try to protect the vulnerable, and to try to right an injustice.

And it was the hopeful determination of suffragists in white, and Women’s Marchers in pink. Of Olympians standing with raised fists, of football players taking a knee with bowed heads, and of the high school students of Stoneman Douglas, not even old enough to vote, who have stood up and said enough is enough on gun violence.

There is nothing automatic or inevitable about that kind of hope and determination. Our nation’s progress has not been guaranteed – and it never will be. The arc of the moral universe may bend toward justice, but the stories and the places and the people that I just talked about – they made conscious choices, that no matter how bleak the world looked, or how infinite the odds, that they would find a way to change this country’s course.

“Our values, our constitution, our democracy – they don’t protect themselves.”

Our values, our constitution, our democracy – they don’t protect themselves. Instead, our progress has really been as a result of people pushing. Sometimes inside government, but many, many times outside. On the streets, on our campuses, in our classrooms. In the courts, in the ballot box and in the media.

And each generation must decide for itself that the cause of justice and equality is worth fighting for. And behind each one of these fights is a wellspring of hope.
The Legitimacy of International Courts: Challenges and Responses

The Ethics Center convened judges serving on the benches of 13 international courts and tribunals in May for the 12th session of the Brandeis Institute for International Judges (BIIJ), co-hosted in Oslo, Norway this spring with the PluriCourts Centre for the Study of the Legitimate Roles of the Judiciary in the Global Order, a Centre of Excellence at the University of Oslo Faculty of Law. The 15 participating judges represented courts and tribunals from across the globe with criminal, human rights, or interstate dispute resolution jurisdictions.

Each BIIJ since the inaugural session in 2002 has offered a setting in which challenging issues can be discussed among colleagues in a frank and productive manner, filling what Second Vice-President of the International Criminal Court Marc Perrin de Brichambaut recently called “a serious gap” in the international justice field.

The 2018 Institute carefully examined the ways in which some international courts are experiencing “pushback” around their legitimacy – from member states, civil society groups, even their own parent bodies. International courts and tribunals generally feel a waning of the late 20th century enthusiasm and support for international justice institutions and realize a proactive response may assist them in negotiating current conditions.

“...the discussions provided very useful insights into the challenges we all face in providing justice to the world,” commented World Trade Organization Appellate Body Chair Ujal Bhatia. “The key learning I came back with is that despite the diversity in our situations, there is enormous value in the work we do, and we all benefit by learning from each other.”

Maureen Rajnauth-Lee of the Caribbean Court of Justice concurred, stating, “I believe that we are all better placed to understand, appreciate and respect the role of each international court in ensuring that justice is delivered to the world.”

Building on the institute proceedings, participants collectively drafted the “Oslo Recommendations for Enhancing the Legitimacy of International Courts,” now finalized and available at the BIIJ website.

The Institute also included a presentation by PluriCourts scholars, and a public event, “International Courts in the Face of Increasing National Criticism: Experiences and Strategies from the European Court of Human Rights, the International Criminal Court, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and the WTO Appellate Body.”

The 2018 Brandeis Institute for International Judges was supported by the Rice Family Foundation, the Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice and the Research Council of Norway.

More about the Institute, including the “Oslo Recommendations” and a list of participating judges: brandeis.edu/ethics/internationaljustice/biij/2018.html

Participants of BIIJ 2018 in Oslo, Norway

Brandeis undergraduates Santiago Montoya Palacios ’19 and Ravi Simon ’19 attended and supported the Institute. Read their reflections on the experience: brandeis.edu/ethics/internationaljustice/biij/2018_InternThoughts.html
Just Published: Let’s Make a Better World: Stories and Songs by Jane Sapp

The Ethics Center is proud to announce the publication by Brandeis University Press of Let’s Make a Better World: Stories and Songs by Jane Sapp, by nationally admired cultural worker, musician, educator, and activist Jane Wilburn Sapp, with Cynthia Cohen, Director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts at the Ethics Center. It was designed by Wen-ti Tsen.

“Jane Sapp is a musical and cultural power,” says Bernice Johnson Reagon, founder of legendary performance ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock. “Her work in the field as a cultural organizer is only matched by what happens when she explodes on stage.”

Jane Sapp’s connections with the Ethics Center run long and deep. She has collaborated with the Center for more than 17 years, presenting in classes in the CAST minor and at the Heller School, leading songwriting workshops, and offering lecture-presentations as part of ‘DEIS Impact. In 2001, she shared the Spingold Theater stage with Pete Seeger. She is currently an Ethics Center Associate.

Part memoir, part songbook, Let’s Make a Better World is an inspiration and an affirmation for cultural workers, activists, artists, and justice-seekers. Sapp shares her personal journey, and the songs she has written with young people and has sung with people of all ages. She tells the stories behind each song and offers suggestions for teachers and chorus leaders.

An accompanying podcast series features Sapp and Cohen as well as Michael Carter, a music educator and cultural worker who began working with Sapp when he was in second grade; civil rights lawyer, cultural worker and composer Rose Sanders; feminist, antiracist, and LGBTQ activist and author Suzanne Pharr; music educator Sandra Nicolucci; and Brandeis student, poet and cultural activist LaShawn Simmons ‘18. Listeners to the seven podcast episodes will hear all 25 songs in the book, along with discussion of Jane Sapp’s unique approach to social transformation through cultural work.

The stories, music scores and podcast episodes make this a practical resource for educators, chorus leaders and others seeking to engage with the power of music, and the arts more generally, as they join with communities to make a better world.

More about the book, and a link to the podcast series: janesapp.org

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT EVENTS

JANUARY
“Indigenous and Environmental Rights” with Rev. M. Kalani Souza was sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

“Graphic Content: The Sacred Art and Beautiful Math of Rachel Braun” was sponsored by the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute (HBI), the Math Department and the Ethics Center’s Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts.

FEBRUARY
The Ethics Center and the Student Union presented the 7th annual ‘DEIS Impact festival of social justice, featuring keynote speaker Nadia Alawa, founding president of NuDay Syria.

MARCH
Roya Hakakian discussed “Iran’s Unfinished Revolution.” Sponsored by HBI.
Vanita Gupta accepted the Richman Fellowship. (See page 5.)

The Ethics Center turned 20! (See page 1.)

The Center for German and European Studies and the African and Afro-American Studies Department (AAAS) presented the series “Reversing the Gaze: African(ist) Perspectives on Europe and Beyond”

The Caribbean Culture Club and AAAS screened “Si bondye vle, Yuli” with director JeanJean.

APRIL
The ENACT Forum on Women’s Political Engagement featured Massachusetts State Senator Cindy Friedman and former New Hampshire Speaker of the House Terie Norelli.

Director Ciara Lacy joined a screening of “Out of State” via Skype. Sponsored by Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies.

The students of the Brandeis ENACT course “Advocacy for Policy Change” discussed their work at Present and Defend.

MAY
The second ENACT Institute brought the 13 new ENACT Faculty Fellows to Brandeis. (See page 3.)

JUNE
The 12th Brandeis Institute for International Judges convened in Norway. (See page 6.)
Joseph B. and Toby Gittler Prize Award Presentation, Lecture and Reception

“Closing the Empathy Gap: Community Building through Dialogue”

Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum

October 3, 2018, 3:30 p.m.
Sherman Function Hall, Hassenfeld Conference Center, Brandeis University

Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum is a renowned authority on racial identity and resegregation in America. Tatum was president of Spelman College from 2002 until her retirement in 2015. Her critically acclaimed 1997 book Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race has been re-released with significant changes that reflect demographic shifts in America today.

This event is free and open to the public. Details: brandeis.edu/gittlerprize

Melissa Stimell was appointed Interim Director of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life in September. She is a Professor of the Practice in the Legal Studies Program at Brandeis University and the Academic Program Director of ENACT. The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation, which is a national expansion of an initiative she spearheaded at Brandeis with her course “Advocacy for Policy Change.”

Stimell is the director of the internship programs for the Legal Studies Program and chair of the Program in Social Justice and Social Policy. She currently teaches Advocacy for Policy Change, Conflict Analysis and Intervention, Brandeis Summer in The Hague, and the seminars accompanying the internship programs.

The Center is pleased to welcome Mark Friedman M.D. to its International Advisory Board. Dr. Friedman is a practicing internist at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and has consulted for over 20 years in the area of pharmacy-economics and health outcomes research to industry and payers as Medical Director for Boston Health Economics.

Dr. Friedman is a graduate of Columbia University and attended the Harvard School of Public Health. He is a member of the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American College of Physicians. Dr. Friedman holds a teaching appointment at Harvard Medical School.

Melissa Stimell

NEW INTERIM DIRECTOR

The Center is pleased to welcome Mark Friedman M.D. to its International Advisory Board. Dr. Friedman is a practicing internist at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and has consulted for over 20 years in the area of pharmacy-economics and health outcomes research to industry and payers as Medical Director for Boston Health Economics.

Dr. Friedman is a graduate of Columbia University and attended the Harvard School of Public Health. He is a member of the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American College of Physicians. Dr. Friedman holds a teaching appointment at Harvard Medical School.

Mark Friedman

NEW BOARD MEMBER

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