Theodore C. Sorensen to Chair Center’s Board

Theodore C. Sorensen, former policy advisor to President John F. Kennedy and Senior Counsel at Paul, Weiss, Rifkin, Wharton & Garrison, New York City, will chair the board of The International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life.

Throughout his professional life Mr. Sorensen has been dedicated to the global community. As a public servant he was involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis, civil rights legislation, and the United States’ decision to travel to the moon. As an international lawyer he has served international businesses and foundations and executed governmental transactions throughout the world. His work has taken him to more than seventy-five countries and to meetings with fifty heads of government and state. He has lectured widely in the United States and abroad on politics and foreign policy, about which he has written eight books including Kennedy and Why I Am a Democrat.

The international board, currently in formation, will provide guidance and advice for the Center’s work. The board will meet for the first time in 2000.

Rice Family Foundation Funds Brandeis International Fellowships

The Rice Family Foundation of New York City has awarded the Ethics Center a five-year $500,000 grant to support the next rounds of Brandeis International Fellowships. This program brings together a small group of scholars and practitioners from countries around the world to share practices and work on projects and publications related to the moral and ethical dimensions of their work.

The first round of Fellows, on campus in 1998, considered issues of intercommunal coexistence. The sixteen participants – from the former Yugoslavia, the Middle East, South Africa, and Sri Lanka – came to campus for two institutes and developed projects in their home regions. A complete description of their work can be found on the Ethics Center web site.

Collaboration among the 1998 Fellows continues. Fellows Judith Green, Dragan Popadic, and Zoughbi Zoughbi will be returning to campus together in February 2000 for work on an anthology drawing on the 1998 institutes and oral histories conducted with the participants. In the fall of 2000 Galia Golan and Cheryl de la Rey will return to Brandeis to design a special project on gender and coexistence.

Guidelines for the next round of fellowships, which will focus on a theme related to education, are under development. These guidelines and related materials are scheduled for release early in 2000.
Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz will present a paper “The Engagement of the University in Coexistence Education” at a November 7-8 conference at Haifa University. The conference, entitled “Interethnic Coexistence: Educating for an Emerging Global Field,” is sponsored by the Abraham Fund. Dr. Reinharz will extrapolate from the Brandeis experience to suggest strategies for mobilizing coexistence efforts among faculty, staff, and students.... On October 25, 1999 Cynthia Cohen, director of the Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence, along with Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellow Forsan Hussein ‘00, attended “Paths to Coexistence: Conference on Interethnic Coexistence Initiatives” at the University of Michigan...Cindy presented a paper on the contributions of the aesthetic domain to coexistence education; Forsan spoke about coexistence education based on his experiences both in Shemesh, an Israeli-based coexistence organization, and at Brandeis. Forsan, now completing his senior year, is one of four Slika Scholars currently at Brandeis....In the summer of 1999 Daniel Terris, director of the Center, traveled to Sri Lanka to explore further Ethics Center partnerships. He was hosted by Brandeis International Fellows Jehan Perera and Kandasamy Sithamparanathan. ... During the month of October, director of the Brandeis Seminars in the Humanities, Mary E. Davis, attended the national conference of state judicial educators. She also launched a series of seminars in juvenile justice and conducted a seminar for federal district court judges in Connecticut.

Brandeis International Fellows Philip Visser and Judith Green have undertaken the first joint project to be carried out by the Brandeis International Fellows. Having documented their work on a media dialogue project in the black township of Kathorus, near Johannesburg, they will now collaborate to write a case study.... Mirha Kratina, Brandeis International Fellow from Zenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina, has been awarded one of eight Ron Brown Fellowships for Bosnian students to study in the United States. She will pursue a master’s degree in education at Duquesne University, concentrating her studies in civic education.

Two 1998 Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellows, Eldad Elnekave and Benjamin Singerman, have been named Hart Fellows by the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University. Eldad will study health issues among Arab women in Israel. He is particularly concerned with the cultural barriers that might prevent Arab women from accessing health care services. With the support of a Fulbright Student Award, Benjamin will live in Ecuador and continue to write about the eleven Quijos Quichua communities of the upper Amazon, examining the meaning of indigenous identity.... 1998 Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellow Ariele Cohen has graduated from Brandeis and enrolled at American University Law School in Washington, D.C....Liora Corbin, another 1998 Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellow, is in the Middle East for the year. She is studying at the Conservative Yeshiva and working at the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel.

Michael Ignatieff, Historian and Journalist, to Visit Brandeis in January

Michael Ignatieff will come to Brandeis University this winter as a Distinguished Visitor of the Ethics Center in conjunction with the Andrei Sakharov Archive and Human Rights Center. Mr. Ignatieff will share his expertise in history, philosophy, journalism, and human rights with the University community. A magnetic personality, he has written and spoken eloquently about a broad range of contemporary topics, including nationalism and the search for justice in South Africa and the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Ignatieff’s residency will run from January 23 to January 26, 2000. During that time he will offer a public lecture in the field of human rights, participate in the ongoing faculty seminar series Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, and address Brandeis students at an evening meeting. In addition, he will have the opportunity to visit classrooms and gather informally with member of the Brandeis community.

Born in Canada and educated at Harvard University, Mr. Ignatieff has been a fellow at King’s College, Cambridge, Ecole des Hautes Etudes, Paris, and St. Antony’s College, Oxford. For more than a decade, he has worked as a free lance writer. His award-winning writings include The Warrior’s Honor: Ethnic War and the Modern Conscience, Blood and Belonging: Journeys into the New Nationalism, and Scar Tissue, a novel. He has recently published a biography of the liberal philosopher Isaiah Berlin and will soon complete a ten-part history of the twentieth century for BBC and CBC radio.
Selected Highlights of Fall 1999 Events

September 21 & 22  “Coexistence and Community-building at Brandeis University and in the World,” featuring Martha Minow, Jane Sapp, Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, and members of the Brandeis community

September 27  “One Woman’s Sarajevo,” presentation and poetry reading by Ferida Durakovic

September 30 – October 28  Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellows Brown-bag Lunch Presentations

October 10 & 11  “Jewish Perspectives on Bioethics in the 21st Century,” conference with the American Physician’s Fellowship for Medicine in Israel


October 28  “MCAS: Education Reformed or Deformed?” panel on controversial statewide tests in Massachusetts, featuring four outstanding educators

November 15  “Doing Justice and Loving Mercy: Perspectives on Coexistence and Reconciliation from an African Peacebuilder,” by Hizkias Assefa (see details in this issue)

November 22  “Non-violence and Empowerment for Social Change: A Global Perspective,” presentation by George Lakey

1998 Fellow Continues Work on Groups in Conflict

Farhat Agbaria, a 1998 Brandeis International Fellow, has been commissioned by the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life to write an occasional paper based on his experiences facilitating groups whose members come from communities in conflict. Specifically, the paper will address the impact of power relations on the dynamics of groups where encounters take place between people from historically divided communities.

Farhat, himself a Palestinian Israeli with extensive experience facilitating encounters and dialogues, will draw examples from his work with Seeds of Peace International Camp and the Face-to-Face program he directs at the Arab Jewish Center for Peace at Givat Haviva, Israel. The purpose of the paper is to help facilitators become aware of how the dynamics of group-based power impact both formal and informal groups and to introduce them to strategies for working effectively with these dynamics.

The paper will be co-authored by Dr. Cynthia Cohen, Coexistence Program Director at the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life. The collaboration is being made possible by a generous grant from Humans All Foundation and by the Alan B. Slifka Foundation, which supports the Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence.

We extend our thanks to the individuals and foundations whose generous contributions in 1998 and 1999 have helped to make the work of the Ethics Center possible.

Alan Applebaum
Arvey Foundation
Cantor Foundation
Noel M. and Leah Edelson
Abraham and Lillian Feinberg
Daniel Feinberg
Wilfred Feinberg
Leonard J. Garth
Hinerfeld Trust
Hoffman Family Foundation
John and Sandra Horvitz Fund
Humans All Foundation
Ruth D. Kobin
Adele Gurman Konecky
and Murray L. Konecky
Rosalind Lehman
Lindemann Foundation
Peter and Melanie Maier
Morton and Edythe Metzger Fund
Arnold and Irene Rabinor
Carlisle L. Rast
Rice Family Foundation
David Rosenberg
Alan B. Slifka Foundation
Stapling Machines
State Justice Institute
Jeanne Steig
David and Susan Terris
United States Institutes of Peace
Anna S. Weissberg
Norbert and Judith Schneider Weissberg
Marcia S. Wohl
Milton and Joan Wohl
Launching the Brandeis Initiative in Intercon

Martha Minow, Harvard law professor, listens as Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, former member of South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, joins the public conversation “Between Vengeance and Forgiveness.”

Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellows, Karen Hovav ’00 (left) and Devika Mahadevan’00 (right), share with mentor Professor Dessima Williams (center) posters of their summer internships at the exhibition “Coexistence and the Quest for Justice.”

(left to right) Slifka Scholars Yoav Borowitz and Forsan Hussein join Alan Slifka and Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz in welcoming the new Slifka Scholars, Maisa Khshaibon and Taher Baderkhan.
Singer/songwriter, educator, activist, and recording artist Jane Sapp celebrates community in the concert “Lift Every Voice: Songs and Stories in Celebration of Coexistence.”

Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellow Lauren Elson ’00 and members of the African Dance Club perform a dance that Lauren learned during her internship in The Gambia.

Elise Boulding, peace researcher and friend of the Ethics Center

Scott Kepnes, participant in Jane Sapp’s community-building workshop, enjoys the performance with his daughter.
Tsehai Berhane-Selassie, an anthropologist originally from Ethiopia, joins the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life for this academic year as a Visiting Scholar. Dr. Berhane-Selassie received her B.A. from Addis Ababa University and her Ph.D. in social anthropology from the University of Oxford. Her areas of specialization include the anthropology of gender; ethnicity and the state; anthropology of development and political economy; and human rights. During the year she will make a presentation to the Brandeis community based on her current research, speak in undergraduate classes, and participate in events sponsored by the Ethics Center and the Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence. She will also continue work on a book entitled *The Ethiopian State: Paradoxical Autonomy of Ethnicity and Gender.*

Six Brandeis students undertook internships in the field of coexistence during the summer of 1999. The undergraduates traveled to Argentina, Israel, The Gambia, Bosnia, Grenada, and China, sending frequent news of their work to the Center. Selections from two student journals follow:

Wendi Adelson ’01 worked in Buenos Aires, Argentina with La Linea Fundadora de las Madres de Plaza de Mayo. Her goal was to learn about the effectiveness of women working for justice in grassroots organizations in the aftermath of military dictatorship. Wendi discovered that “grief positively focused on eliminating injustice can fuel an entire movement.” She wrote about a march in Jujuy with the Mothers to raise awareness of the *disappeared* in Argentina: “We were about three hundred people, accompanied by a band playing Latin marching rhythms with African influence... motivating music and fitting to the environment as we marched holding photos of the *disappeared* and signs demanding justice, alongside the never-ending sugar fields with mountains on all sides.... I definitely realized the power of peaceful demonstration — the value that sharing a common cause, demanding justice, and having others share in your cause has on personal grief.”

Before traveling to the Middle East, Tamara Beliak studied Arabic. Even before her arrival in Jerusalem she recognized the key role language would play in her coexistence work at MEND, Middle East Non-violence and Democracy, and Bat Shalom. Throughout her internship she used her ability to speak Arabic and her desire to learn about Palestinian culture to form productive relationships with her colleagues. On one occasion she, “...went with Anti-Housing Demolition Group [affiliated with Bat Shalom] to a Palestinian house inside the borders of Jerusalem. We went to help rebuild a house in protest.... The best part is the teamwork. Everyone stands in an assembly line bringing dirt and rocks to the next person. It was also funny that the assembly was a tower of Babel. I heard Hebrew, Arabic, English, and German, warning the next pail [was coming]. We are all from different backgrounds but the common bond of human rights concerns brings us together.”
Human Rights and Conflict Resolution: Reconciling Two Approaches to Coexistence
Faculty Seminar Series

On Wednesday, September 22 Professor Martha Minow of Harvard Law School led the first in a series of faculty seminars designed to engage scholars and practitioners in collaborative inquiry about both the human rights and the conflict resolution approaches to coexistence. Some thirty-five people participated in the discussion of Professor Minow’s subject “Between Vengeance and Forgiveness.”

Five additional seminars are planned for the academic year. Each will be led by a distinguished scholar or practitioner in the field of coexistence. Recognizing that in many conflict regions advocates of human rights and conflict resolution find themselves at odds, participants in the seminars will examine the assumptions underlying each approach. Ultimately, the goal is to produce ways of understanding these tensions that will strengthen the work of both human rights advocates and conflict resolution practitioners.

Faculty and guests of Brandeis University who would like to participate in one or more of the seminars should contact the Ethics Center: 781-736-8577 or e-mail: ethics@brandeis.edu.

Peace and Conflict in Africa: Reflections from an African Peacebuilder
A two-part series
Free and open to the public

1 Conflict in Africa: Causes, Dynamics, and Implications for the Emerging Global Order
November 15, 1999
Lurias, Hassenfeld Conference Center

2 Patterns of Peace and Peacebuilding in Africa: Lessons and Reflections
Tuesday, November 16, 1999
Lurias, Hassenfeld Conference Center

Relief Workers and Conflict Resolution
Friday, November 19 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Heller 334

Doing Justice and Loving Mercy: Lessons from an African Peacebuilder
Friday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m.
Lurias, Hassenfeld Conference Center.


The Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence has been made possible by a generous grant from the Alan B. Slifka Foundation.
The Ethics Center welcomes Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, an accomplished social worker and social psychologist from South Africa, as a Visiting Faculty Associate for the academic year 1999-2000. Ms. Gobodo-Madikizela will bring to the Brandeis community a wealth of experience in the fields of reconciliation, social psychology, literary studies, gender studies, and politics. A former member of the Human Rights Violation Committee of South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, she will teach a course in the spring of 2000 called The Rupture of Silence.

The new course, which is part of the Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence, will provide undergraduate and graduate students with an overview of South African history, ethnic composition, and political conflict. It will examine closely the narrative testimony given to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by victims, perpetrators, and bystanders of apartheid and attempt to set that testimony in context. The course will explore the nature of memory and the language of trauma as well as examine theories arising from other political traumas, particularly the Holocaust.

Ethics Center Courses at Brandeis University Spring 2000

AAAS 124b: The Rupture of Silence: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa
Instructor: Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela

AMST 186a: Topics in Ethics, Justice, and Public Life: Literature, Education, and Moral Inquiry
Instructor: Daniel Terris

LGLS 127b: Law and Letters in American Culture: Rape and the Written Word
Instructor: Mary Davis

NEJS 171b: Describing Cruelty
Instructor: Kanan Makiya

PAX 186a: Introduction to Inter-communal Coexistence
Instructor: Cynthia Cohen

WMNS 185a: Harmonies and Tensions: Contemporary Issues in Black-Jewish Relations in the United States
Instructor: Jyl Lynn Felman