



**BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY**  
**Office of the Executive Vice President  
and Chief Operating Officer**

**TO: All Members of the Brandeis Community**  
**FROM: Peter B. French, Executive VP/COO**  
**SUBJECT: Update on Capital Projects**  
**DATE: August 29, 2007**

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I would like to welcome back to campus all members of the Brandeis community. As I have in the past, I am writing to report on capital projects completed or underway this past summer and on projects now being planned or designed. This and my previous community update memos are available on the EVP/COO website, at [www.brandeis.edu/evpcoo](http://www.brandeis.edu/evpcoo) (click the [News and Info](#) and [Archives](#) links). Further information on capital projects can be found at [www.brandeis.edu/capitalprojects](http://www.brandeis.edu/capitalprojects). Follow these quick links for information on the following projects:

**Projects Completed or Under Construction:**

- [Science Complex Renewal, Phase 1](#)
- [New Ridgewood Residence Halls](#)
- [Heller-Brown Renovation](#)
- [Chapels Field Rehabilitation](#)
- [Rabb Steps Renewal](#)
- [Graduate Student Center](#)
- [Steam and Electric Network Improvements](#)
- [Annual Summer Classroom Renovations Program](#)
- [Faculty Center and Levin Ballroom \(Usdan Student Center\) Improvements](#)
- [Swig Intercultural Center](#)
- [Massell Pond Improvements](#)

**Projects in Planning or Design:**

- [Edmond J. Safra Center for the Arts](#)
- [DeRoy Residence Hall Renovation](#)
- [Late-Night Dining: \*The Night Owl\*](#)

## **Projects Completed or Under Construction:**

### **Science Complex Renewal Project, Phase 1**

The Science Complex Renewal Project is putting in place new facilities to support the future of science at Brandeis and to renovate existing facilities selectively, to enable best use of those facilities, consistent with the Science Complex master plan developed by Payette Associates Architects. Phase 1 of the project consists of a new building of approximately 100,000 square feet adjacent to Kalman. Foundation walls and vertical supports for this concrete building have been poured, and under-slab plumbing and pouring of exterior walls and the superstructure are in progress. Completion of the building is scheduled for winter 2008; move-in is scheduled for spring 2009. A new central chiller plant, to serve the Science Complex, is also under construction immediately northeast of the Complex.

The new Phase 1 building will connect to Rosenstiel, and an additional multilevel connector is being added between Rosenstiel and Kosow; the latter is expected to be complete by summer 2008. Renovations will take place in selected areas in Bassine (from winter 2008 to summer 2009), Rosenstiel (late fall 2007 to winter 2008), and Gerstenzang (now through winter 2007).

Following creation of the new Phase 1 building, to be named the Carl J. Shapiro Science Center, Friedland and Kalman, the two oldest buildings within the science complex, are scheduled to be removed (by fall 2009 and spring 2010, respectively). The planned Phase 2 of the project will involve creation of a new building more or less on the footprint of Kalman, followed by removal of Edison-Lecks and creation of a new entry pavilion with classrooms and lounge space.

### **New Ridgewood Residence Halls**

The Ridgewood Residence Quad and Ziv Commons have been razed to make way for the new Ridgewood Residence Halls. Ninety percent of the debris from these demolitions has been recycled. In place of these buildings, three new, larger buildings will provide 184 beds in apartment-style housing. Each apartment will have single bedrooms, a kitchen and living room. In creating the New Ridgewood Residence Halls, high priority has been placed on environmentally responsible design and construction practices.

Building A (the northernmost of the three) will include the South Campus Commons, a 3,200-square-foot multipurpose space for events, dances, presentations, and general student use. A kitchen in the South Campus Commons will allow for larger group meals. All three buildings will have entry lounges, and Building C will include the Quad Director's office and an office for Community Advisors.

In early September, the Admissions parking lot will be closed to all parking except Admissions visitors. Admissions visitor parking may remain available in that area during most periods of construction, but all others who currently park in the Admissions Lot will

be redirected to park in either Hassenfeld Lot or Theater Lot. Further information on these parking changes will be provided today, August 29, in a separate email. New landscape spaces will be created between Admissions and Slosberg and in the space to the south framed by the new buildings, and a new section of the Brandeis Walk (the central pedestrian spine) will connect the section at the Village to the section running by the Shapiro Campus Center Great Lawn.

With demolition complete, site preparation and installation of utilities have just begun and will continue through early October. In mid-October, creation of building foundations will begin. Completion of construction is scheduled for December 2008. Occupancy is expected at the start of the spring 2009 semester. The first open forum for this project was held in February. The second of the two planned open forums is scheduled for mid-September. The exact date, time, and location will be announced shortly.

### **Heller-Brown Renovation**

The renovation of the Heller-Brown building is complete. The Heller School for Social Policy and Management now occupies both the Irving Schneider and Family Building and the newly renovated Heller-Brown, which are connected on all levels. The renovation included all required code work, a complete mechanical upgrade (integration with systems in Schneider), new classrooms, conference rooms, graduate student carrels, library, a Geographic Information Systems lab, offices, and administrative areas. The new finishes and furnishings in Heller-Brown are consistent with Schneider.

### **Chapels Field Rehabilitation**

The renewal of Chapels Field was completed this summer. This work included raising and flattening the field, drainage improvements, sodding the playing area of the field and seeding the surrounding areas, including the new sloped area transitioning to the Brandeis Walk (the central pedestrian spine). As part of this project, the road that runs between Rosenstiel Quad and Chapels Field was regraded to improve drainage. A fence will remain in place for a short while longer, and we ask all members of the community not to use the Field while the grass takes hold. The Field is expected to be back in use by September 1 or shortly thereafter.

### **Rabb Steps Renewal**

The steps leading from the loop road at the north end of campus up through the Rabb Graduate Center to the North Academic Quad have been renewed. New granite steps and plaza paving were laid, and waterproofing under the upper plaza was replaced. In addition, new plantings were added adjacent to the steps.

### **Graduate Student Center in Kutz Hall**

The new Graduate Student Center has been created in Kutz Hall. It includes an office for the new Assistant Provost, the Graduate Coordinator's office; a lounge and common space;

a five-station computer cluster; a kitchenette; and a storage area. In addition, a new conference room has been created across the hall.

### **Steam and Electric Network Improvements**

Several infrastructure improvements were made this summer, continuing the considerable progress made in recent years. A new electric line was added to serve the Lower Campus. Also, a steam network segment was replaced between the Central Heating Plant and the southeast corner of the Science Center. From that point, beginning in early September, a new steam segment, terminating near the Shapiro Admissions Center, will be put in place to serve the Lower Campus, including the New Ridgewood Residence Halls and other future construction projects on the Lower Campus. Work on that new segment is expected to be complete by the end of January 2008.

### **Annual Summer Classroom Renovations Program**

Continuing the progress made in recent years to improve the quality of instructional spaces, this summer the University renovated 25 classrooms. Eleven of these classrooms received technology upgrades; other improvements include new furniture, carpet, paint, and blinds (in conformity with the new University standards).

### **Faculty Center and Levin Ballroom**

New ceilings, lighting and fire sprinklers were installed both in the Faculty Center and in Levin Ballroom in Usdan Student Center. The Faculty Center roof was also replaced.

### **Swig Intercultural Center**

In the Swig Intercultural Center in East Quad, four offices upstairs were removed to create a new, large multipurpose space with a dance floor and mirrors. New windows will be installed shortly. Office functions were relocated to the lower level.

### **Massell Pond Improvements**

Massell Pond, an important part of the University's storm water management system, was dredged and cleaned this summer, and a fountain was added to maintain desirable oxygen levels and reduce algae growth in the pond.

### **Projects in Planning or Design:**

#### **Edmond J. Safra Center for the Arts, Phase 1**

Architect Moshe Safdie is nearing completion on schematic design for all three phases of the Edmond J. Safra Center for the Arts. Construction of Phase 1, the Edmond J. Safra Fine Arts Building, is expected to begin in late spring 2008, with occupancy projected during the fall 2009 semester. Pollack Fine Arts Teaching Center will remain in place through the fall 2007 semester and is expected to be removed at the start of 2008.

## **DeRoy Residence Hall Renovation**

Continuing the program of residence hall upgrades carried out over the past several years, renovations have begun at DeRoy Residence Hall in Massell Quad, with occupancy slated for the start of the spring 2008 semester. These renovations will be consistent with recent renovations at Scheffres, Gordon, and Renfield halls.

## **Late-Night Dining: *The Night Owl***

A late-night dining venue will be created in the unassigned space in the Village Residence Hall. A committee composed of students and officials from Student Life has recommended that *The Night Owl* follow a diner format. Watch for a spring 2008 opening.

## **Questions?**

Please contact Dan Feldman, Vice President for Capital Projects, at x6-8405 or by email to [feldman@brandeis.edu](mailto:feldman@brandeis.edu), with questions about the following projects:

- Science Complex Renewal, Phase 1
- New Ridgewood Residence Halls
- Edmond J. Safra Center for the Arts
- Heller-Brown Renovation
- Chapels Field Rehabilitation
- Rabb Steps Renewal
- Graduate Student Center

More information about these and other capital projects can be found on the website of the Office of Capital Projects, at [www.brandeis.edu/capitalprojects](http://www.brandeis.edu/capitalprojects).

Please contact Mark Collins, Vice President for University Services, at x6-4564 or by email to [collins@brandeis.edu](mailto:collins@brandeis.edu), with questions about the following projects:

- Steam and Electric Network Improvements
- Annual Summer Classroom Renovations Program
- Faculty Center and Levin Ballroom Improvements
- Swig Intercultural Center
- Massell Pond Improvements
- DeRoy Residence Hall Renovation
- *The Night Owl*: Late-Night Dining