ABOUT THE PROGRAM
In addition to being inherently pleasurable and intellectually exciting, majoring or minoring in English helps develop important skills. English students learn how to read carefully and closely, write skillfully and stylishly, and argue analytically and critically. Students study not only poetry and prose, but also films, journalism, television, and the Internet. Graduates of the English department at Brandeis have gone on to become scientists, businesspeople, professors, lawyers, filmmakers, television producers, psychologists, fiction writers, poets, literary agents and social activists.

What makes the program distinctive?
The English department is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in both scholarship and teaching. The members of the department have remarkably diverse interests and teach courses that range from the origins of English literature to contemporary best-sellers. The department is also committed to the study of film and new media and technologies, as well as Anglophone literature in its global context.
**ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH**

**Course offerings**

Courses include “Literature and Medicine,” “Disney,” “Migrating Bodies, Migrating Text” and “Queer Readings: Beyond Stonewall.” Recently, students in John Plotz’ “Birth of the Short Story” course were asked to rediscover and “republish” overlooked short stories.

**The Mandel Center for the Humanities**

Ramie Targoff, a member of the English department, is also the director of the Mandel Center for the Humanities. This exciting new center offers interdisciplinary undergraduate courses that attract students from all majors in the humanities and beyond. The center also hosts local, national and international conferences and events.

**BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

**Student journalism**

Students are encouraged to contribute to publications on campus including The Justice (the official student newspaper), The Hoot (a community newspaper), The Blowfish (an independent satirical newspaper), Laurel Moon (a literary magazine), Diverse City (a culture, ethnicity and arts publication), and Gravity (a humor magazine), among others.

**Summer internships**

Leila E. ’12 spent a summer working in Portland, Ore., at In Other Words Women’s Books and Resources, the only nonprofit feminist bookstore in the United States. Maxwell P. ’11 volunteered his time at Harlem Children’s Zone, an after-school and summer program for at-risk teens. The program seeks to motivate social, artistic and personal growth toward positive change in their communities.

**Study abroad**

English majors and minors have the opportunity to spend a summer or semester studying in another country. University College in London and the University of Melbourne have been favorite choices in the past.

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

**Faculty awards**

Several faculty members have won prestigious fellowships recently.

John Plotz received a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship; Dawn Skorczewski received a grant from the Whiting Foundation; and Ramie Targoff received a Guggenheim Fellowship and an American Academy in Rome Scholar in Residence Award.

**Faculty publications**

Recent faculty publications include Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman’s “Against the Closet”; Dawn Skorczewski’s “An Accident of Hope”; and Faith Smith’s (ed.) “Sex and the Citizen.”

**AFTER BRANDEIS**

**Julia Tejblum ’08**

Tejblum, currently completing an English Ph.D. at Harvard, previously worked in the College Division of W.W. Norton & Co. designing and maintaining a website and working alongside editors to revise and market titles such as “The Norton Anthology of English Literature,” as well as textbooks from every discipline.

**Ha Jin, Ph.D.’93**

Known for his literature on the People’s Republic of China, Jin is a bestselling novelist and poet. Recent books include “Nanjing Requiem” and “A Good Fall.” His novel “Waiting” received the National Book Award in 1999.

**Deniz Cordell ’07**

Cordell works as a writer, composer and musical director. He has provided liner notes for releases of classic film music for record labels and musically directed shows in the New Hampshire area and in New York City, and he has written several scripts for the award-winning Colonial Radio Theatre on the Air.

**Diverse career fields**

Other English alumni include Deborah Blal ’87, founder and president of the Posse Foundation, an education access nonprofit; Michael Ratner ’65, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York City; Marshall Herskovitz ’73, a director, producer and screenwriter whose work includes “The Last Samurai” and “Traffic”; and Margo Jefferson ’68, a Pulitzer Prize-winning critic-at-large for The New York Times.

Professor William Flesch, who specializes in Renaissance literature, makes a point of getting students in his classroom to argue with him. “If you agree with everything I’m saying, I’ve failed,” he says.