

May 1999

Dear Friends:

1998-1999 is a year of transition for Brandeis. We are celebrating our 50th anniversary and preparing for our second half century. This is also a year of personal transition for me because I have recently agreed to serve another five-year term as president. Joining me as the new chairman of the Board of Trustees is **Steven Grossman**, president of MassEnvelopePlus, a member of the Board since 1996 and a distinguished public leader, who served most recently as co-chair of the Democratic National Committee. He succeeds **Barton J. Winokur**, chairman of Dechert Price & Rhoads, Philadelphia, PA, our able Board chair since 1995. I am pleased to welcome two new Board members, **Robert S. Rifkind**, a partner in the New York firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore, and **Samuel N. Stroum**, president of Samuel Stroum Enterprises of Seattle, WA. We also welcome back to the Board **Myra Kraft '64**, president of the New England Patriots Foundation, and **Carol Saivetz '69**, professor and Executive Director of Slavic Studies at the Harvard University Russian Research Center.

At this time of year, I focus on admissions, commencement and the achievements of our graduating class. I am pleased to report that once again our admissions statistics are excellent. The applicant pool increased by 6.3 per cent over last year to an all-time record high, and Early Decision applicants increased by more than 52 per cent. Since 1994, undergraduate applications to the University have increased by 33 per cent, and this year, for the first time since 1972, Brandeis admitted less than half of the applicant pool.

I also have wonderful news about our recent graduates and current students. Eighty per cent of the Class of 1998 medical school applicants were admitted, compared to a national acceptance rate of 42 per cent; 97 per cent of the class who applied to law school were accepted, compared to a national success rate of 77 per cent. The Goldwater Scholarship, the premier undergraduate award for students in the fields of mathematics, science, and engineering, received 1186 submissions for the 315 scholarships nationwide. Three Brandeis students became Goldwater Scholars: **Kimberly Patricio '00** of Fall River, MA; **Gregory Sivakoff '00** of Wilmington, DE; and **Joshua Weinger '00** of Newton, MA. Three Brandeis undergraduates were among the 98 students nationwide [out of 800 competitors] who won the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies: **Maricruz Aguayo '99** of Welasco, TX; **David Freidenreich '99** of Yardley, PA; and **Margaret Kaner '99** of Northbrook, IL.

Stephen Rabin '00 of Marblehead, MA, is one of the 75 students selected nationwide from among 650 applicants to receive a \$30,000 Truman Scholarship, awarded to students who exhibit outstanding leadership abilities, academic performance, and community and public service. Of the three student candidates from Massachusetts, two were from Brandeis. **Rachel Leah Margolis '00** of Camp

Hill, PA, a double concentrator in Politics and English and American Literature, has been named a Beinecke Scholar for Graduate Study in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. **Ariel Levine**, a junior from Potomac, MD, is one of only three undergraduates nationwide to win this year's Science Education Award for Students from the American Association for Cancer Research. A biology major who works with Professor **Lawrence Wangh**, Ariel won the award for her research on the mouse version of a tumor-suppressing gene [*brca1*] that plays a role in the development of some breast cancers. **Nageeb Ali** '99 of Dhaka, Bangladesh is among *USA Today's* most outstanding students. A double major in economics and mathematics who is active in the Muslim Student Association, Nageeb was an Ethics Fellow in Skardu, Pakistan last summer and has been offered a position with the Charles River Consulting Group of Cambridge, MA following graduation.

Brandeis students have also done well in athletics and other competitions. On March 5 – 6, Brandeis hosted the University Athletic Association [UAA] indoor track championship, won by the Brandeis women's team with the men's team placing second to Washington University. On March 18 – 20, Brandeis hosted the NCAA national fencing championship, which included teams from all three NCAA divisions. The fact that Brandeis was chosen as the site for the national fencing championship reflects the strength of our fencing program under the leadership of Coach **Bill Shipman**. **Tim Morehouse** '00 of Bronx, NY placed sixth in the nation in the saber competition. **Rashad Williams** '02 of Redwood City, CA was named the Eastern College Athletic Conference [ECAC] Division III New England Rookie of the Year in basketball. He was also the only freshman to earn All-Association honors in the UAA. His overall scoring average of 19.1 points per game was tops in the UAA. The Brandeis Debate and Speech Society has qualified to send three teams to the national debating championship and hopes to attend the world debating championship to be held in Sydney, Australia in December 1999 and January 2000.

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In what may be a first in the University's history, two of our alumni have books on *The New York Times* bestseller list simultaneously. As I write this letter, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, by **Tom Friedman** '75, Brandeis trustee and foreign affairs columnist for *The New York Times*, has recently joined *Tuesdays with Morrie*, by **Mitch Albom** '79, on the list. *Tuesdays with Morrie*, which has been on the bestseller list for more than 80 weeks, is the story of Mitch's relationship with the late Brandeis Professor Morrie Schwartz during the last weeks of his spiritual mentor's life. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree* explores the meaning of economic globalization and is Tom's second book to appear on the bestseller list. His earlier book, *From Beirut to Jerusalem*, also won the 1989 National Book Award for nonfiction.

Six faculty members have won major awards recently that I am pleased to share with you. **James Haber**, Goodman Professor of Biology, has received a Guggenheim Fellowship for work on the mechanisms of recombination and DNA repair. **Wenbin Lin**, assistant professor of chemistry, is Brandeis's latest winner of the National Science Foundation's prestigious Faculty Early Career Development Award. **Yehudi Wyner**, Naumburg Professor of Composition, is one of eleven individuals elected nationwide to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Madrigal, his most recent composition, was written for Brandeis's Lydian String Quartet in celebration of the University's 50th anniversary. **Antony Polonsky**, Hilborn Professor of Judaic and Social Studies, has been awarded the Knight's Cross, Order of Merit, by the Republic of Poland for "outstanding services to studies in Polish Jewry." Howard Hughes Principal Investigator **Christopher Miller** has been elected President of the Biophysical Society for 2000-2001. Professor of Music **Jessie Ann Owens** won the 1998 ASCAP-Deems Taylor Prize for books in the symphonic category for her work, *Composers at Work: The Craft of Musical Composition 1450 – 1600*, published by Oxford University Press. The faculty as a whole has been very successful in obtaining grants. In the last five years, sponsored program revenue has grown from \$33.8 million to \$41.7 million, an increase of 23 per cent. Compared to peer institutions our size, Brandeis has among the highest percentage of sponsored revenue to overall budget expenditures. Clearly, we excel both in teaching and research.

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Brandeis University's campus life is rich in many ways. As is appropriate for an institution committed to social action and social justice, a number of programs this semester focused on human rights around the world. In March, **Liam Mahoney**, a human rights activist with Peace Brigades International and co-founder of the Peace Brigades Haiti Project, spoke on "Unarmed Bodyguards: Non-Violence Confronts Organized Terror." In April, **Oksana Horbunova** of La Strada Ukraine and **Hseng Nong**, a Burmese human rights activist, participated in the sixth Tillie K. Lubin symposium on international trafficking in women and girls for prostitution, sponsored by the Brandeis Women's Studies Program and the Soros Foundation. Also in April, Judge **Richard J. Goldstone** of the Constitutional Court of South Africa and former Chief Prosecutor of the United Nations War Crimes Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda spoke on "Crimes Against Humanity: How Should They Be Judged?" On April 23-25, *E Pluribus Unum* Weekend celebrated the realization of the Brandeis founders' dream to create a university that would be open to all without regard to religion, race, ethnicity, gender or nationality. This month, the Gordon Public Policy Center and the Heller Graduate School co-hosted a conference on Children's Rights, designed to develop an action agenda for the next century's policy priorities on children's issues.

Other interesting events this semester have included a rare exhibition of photographs from Brandeis's Andrei Sakharov Archives of the men and women who participated in the struggle for human rights in the former Soviet Union; the annual Festival of the Arts celebration; a highly successful Black History Month celebration organized under the direction of **Kamilah Drummond '99** of Mattapan, MA; the Fourteenth International George Sand Conference on George Sand and the Art of French Fiction; and a retrospective of the remarkable career of the photography-based artist **Sarah Charlesworth**, whose exhibit in the Rose Art Museum will run until May 31. Throughout this 50th anniversary year, the Spingold Theater Center season has been supported by a generous grant from the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, which has made possible a series of special programs in connection with mainstage theater productions. Author and historian **Doris Kearns Goodwin** and her husband, **Richard Goodwin**, former special aide to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, were among the participants of a panel on

“Morality in Politics: Does it Help or Hurt?” presented in connection with the production of Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*. Other programs included legal scholar and law professor **Alan Dershowitz** speaking on “Sexual McCarthyism: Then, Now, and in the Future” in connection with the staging of Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible*, and **Galt MacDermot**, composer of *Hair*, **Martin Charnin**, creator of *Annie*, and **Sheldon Harnick**, lyricist for *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Fiorello* discussing “American Musical Theater and the American Dream” in connection with Brandeis’s staging of the musical *Fiorello*.

Students also had an opportunity this semester to hear from Professor **Edward Witten** ’71 of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, who ranks among the most brilliant physicists of his generation. An undergraduate *history* major at Brandeis, Professor Witten delivered a series of talks on physicists’ quest to unify all of nature’s fundamental forces under a single theory. Another scientist with an interest in the social sciences is Brandeis Professor **Jeffrey Hall**, a member of the faculty of the Brandeis Biology Department for more than 25 years. An expert in neurogenetics, whose research is continually funded by the country’s top research institutes, Professor Hall also teaches History 150b, *Gettysburg: Its Context in the American Civil War*. Invited to give this course by the nationally acclaimed historian **David Hackett Fischer**, Professor Hall has taught his Gettysburg course and taken students on tours of the battlefield since 1996. It is unusual to find a distinguished scientist who is also a respected historian, but the juxtaposition of his interests reflects the best traditions of Brandeis and of liberal education.

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Earlier this semester the Graduate School of International Economics and Finance [GSIEF] held a successful second annual Business, Ethics and Society Forum, involving two days of school-wide study of business ethics, featuring **Ben Cohen**, Founder of Ben & Jerry’s, and **Jeffrey Swartz**, CEO of Timberland. Students also participated in the CEO Forum, featuring the senior executives of Cognex, Fairchild, Fidelity, the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, Saint Gobain, and the State Street Bank. Among the speakers were the former Deputy Prime Minister of Russia and the owner of the New England Patriots, **Robert Kraft**. Undergraduate and graduate students in GSIEF have launched an investment club, which, per agreement with the Investment Committee of the Board of Trustees and the University’s Treasurer, will allow students to jointly manage a small part of the University’s portfolio, under supervision.

Next year, students will have a chance to study with **Susan Blumenthal**, M.D., Assistant Surgeon General of the United States, who will be a visiting professor in the Women’s Studies Program. Also returning to teach this fall is **Anita Hill**, who spent last fall at Brandeis as a visiting professor in the Women’s Studies Program. She has accepted a three-year appointment as professor of law, social policy, and women’s studies. Professor Hill will be affiliated with the Florence Heller Graduate School, where she will teach and conduct research. **Henri Cole** will be the Fannie Hurst Poet-in-Residence and novelist **Marcie Hershman**, author of *Safe in America* and *Tales of the Master Race*, will be the Fannie Hurst Writer-in-Residence. Professor **Sadik Al-Azm** of the University of Damascus in Syria will be the Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor of Non-Western and

Comparative Studies. Novelist **Rebecca Goldstein** and Judaic scholar **Norma Baumel Joseph** will be scholars-in-residence at Brandeis's International Research Institute on Jewish Women, sponsored by Hadassah.

Beginning next semester, students will experience changes that are underway in the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs. A new Office of First-Year Services will serve as the primary advising and programming resource for new students. The office will coordinate academic advising by faculty and staff, organize workshops and class-wide activities for entering undergraduates, and work with other offices to marshal resources and expertise to address the needs and concerns of students during their transition to undergraduate education. Professor **Malcolm Watson** of the Department of Psychology, an outstanding teacher and mentor, will work with the First-Year Services staff in a new advising role that will affiliate him with the members of the Class of 2003 throughout their four years at Brandeis.

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Later this month at commencement, we will award honorary degrees to former astronaut and senior Senator from Ohio **John Glenn** and to Polish Foreign Minister **Bronislaw Geremek**, a survivor of the Holocaust, a distinguished medieval historian, and chairman of the European Council for Security and Cooperation. Brandeis's other honorees are philanthropist and former chief of protocol **Leonore Annenberg**; cellist **Mstislav Rostropovich**; Talmudist **Adin Steinsaltz**; architect **Moshe Safdie**; and opera star **Galina Vishnevskaya**. On the Saturday evening preceding commencement, Maestro **Mstislav Rostropovich**, **Vladimir Spivakov**, **Yehudi Wyner**, **Lorraine Hunt**, child prodigy **Bronika Kushkuley**, and the Lydian String Quartet will give a special concert at Jordan Hall in Boston to benefit the Andrei Sakharov Archives at Brandeis.

As we close the academic year, we bid farewell to nine long-time members of our University community. Rabbi **Albert Axelrad**, Brandeis's Jewish chaplain, a friend, mentor, and spiritual advisor to thousands of Brandeis students, will retire after more than 34 years of devoted service. Professor **Bernard Reisman**, Klutznick Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies and until recently Director of the Benjamin Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service, will retire after 29 years, and Professor of Economics **Barney Schwalberg**, a virtual institution at Brandeis, will retire after more than 30 years. Other faculty retirees include Berenson Professor of Mathematics **David Buchsbaum**, Atran Professor of Labor Economics **Robert Evans, Jr.**, Professor of Biochemistry **Thomas Hollocher**, and Professor of Physics and Biochemistry **Alfred Redfield**. Dr. **Peter Witt**, Director of the Education Program, will also retire after 38 years at Brandeis. In July, we will say good-bye to **Carmine Cacciatore**, who, for more than 35 years, has been a mainstay of the transportation department at Brandeis and a friend to countless undergraduates, Brandeis presidents and trustees.

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Frequently I am asked what happens at Brandeis during the summer. This summer marks the 25th anniversary of the Brandeis Summer School, which has grown from only pre-med offerings in 1974 to a comprehensive list of 65 courses in

18 different disciplines. In addition, there are four special summer programs: the Brandeis Summer Music Festival, the Hebrew Language Summer Institute, the Brandeis in Cracow program, and the Summer Art Program. The Music Festival features workshops with the Lydian String Quartet, the Hebrew Institute offers intensive language instruction at four different levels, and the Brandeis in Cracow program sends students and faculty on a month-long trip to Poland to explore the full spectrum of the East European Jewish past. New this year, the Summer Art Program provides eight weeks of instruction, including weekly drawing and printmaking workshops. The program is aimed at students in at least their junior year who are committed to a concentration in art. Brandeis Summer Odyssey, which is now in its tenth year, offers highly motivated high school students hands-on experiences in biotechnology, environmental science, mathematics, computer science and psychology. Genesis, a summer program for high school students of all backgrounds, funded during its initial years by **Steven Spielberg**, integrates the arts, humanities, Jewish studies, and social action.

The Graduate School of International Economics and Finance will offer two executive programs this summer. The "Alliance Strategy" seminar [June 6-9] will be led in Boston by Professor **Benjamin Gomes-Casseres**, author of *The Alliance Revolution*, with the purpose of challenging participants to rethink the way they compete. The "World Financial Centers: Frankfurt" course [July 11-17] held in Frankfurt and led by Professors **Michael Plummer** and **David Simon**, will analyze the Euro and its likely impact on European financial markets.

Finally, I look forward to Reunion '99 on June 10 – 13. The weekend begins with Alumni College '99: *Minds That Matter*, an all-day program with talks on "The Biotech Revolution: What is it? What's happening?;" "From Concept to Market: Brandeis Entrepreneurs Share Their Success Stories;" "Women at the Millennium: New Challenges and Possibilities;" and "Globalization of Business in the 21st Century: Will the U.S. Survive?" Check out the details regarding Reunion '99 on the web at www.brandeis.edu/alumni. At the Reunion '99 Welcome Back Dinner on June 11, Alumni Achievement Awards will be presented to **Paula Apsell '69**, Director of the WGBH-TV Science Unit and Executive Producer of "Nova;" **Elliot Aronson '54**, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz; and **Eli Segal '64**, president and CEO of the non-profit Welfare to Work Partnership.

Brandeis University's 50th anniversary year has been a year-long reflection and celebration. Our greatest accomplishments lie in the years ahead. I extend to all of you my best wishes for a relaxing summer,

Sincerely,

Jehuda Reinharz