

November 2000

Dear Friends,

As you know, Brandeis alumni are scattered all over the world. Over the years, I have visited alumni chapters in many countries. In May, my wife, Shula, and I had the pleasure of attending a reception in Jerusalem of the Brandeis University Alumni Club of Israel at the home of Rabbi **Herbert** and **Rose Shirwindt '57 Weinberg**, club president. Seventy alumni and current students enjoyed an afternoon of news of the University and catching up with each other. In September, I attended a reception at the home of **Shelly** and **Bernard J. Jacob '77**, hosted by the Brandeis University Alumni Club of Westchester County, New York. Later this year, I will be attending alumni events in Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

In June, over 1,000 alumni from the Classes of 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, and 1995 returned to campus for their Reunion. Alumni generosity helped Brandeis achieve a new \$7 million record in alumni giving, a 16 percent increase over last year. Alumni giving is important, not only in and of itself, but also because it is a criterion by which universities are judged and ranked. Increased alumni giving, together with giving by other groups, resulted in total cash gifts during FY00 of \$61.7 million — a new Brandeis record. I am also extremely pleased to announce a wonderfully generous \$10 million gift to Brandeis from Trustee **Samuel N. Stroum** and his wife, **Althea**. Of the gift total, \$4.8 million will endow four-year scholarships, enabling top Waltham High School graduates to study at Brandeis each year. The balance will be divided equally to create the Samuel Stroum Performance Enhancement Fund at the Graduate School of International Economics and Finance, and the Samuel and Althea Stroum Fund for 21st Century Science. These two endowed funds will enhance international business education and science and technology research.

Also in June, we selected Chan Krieger & Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts to prepare a campus "master plan." During the summer, they received data and prior studies, and in the fall, they initiated a process of broad consultation with campus constituencies. My goal is to complete a formal master plan by commencement 2001. This plan will enable Brandeis to build on its history, assess its facilities and plan the implementation of a fresh vision for the campus. Among our priorities is the construction of new residence facilities, while we also renovate and upgrade existing ones.

Our campus changed dramatically this summer. Ford and Sydeman Halls were razed, and in their place the new **Carl** and **Ruth Shapiro** Campus Center is rising, scheduled to open at the start of the fall 2002 semester. The groundbreaking ceremony for this extraordinary new Center was held on October 25. You can follow the construction continually by clicking on the web cam link at www.brandeis.edu/campuscenter. The web site also provides sketches of the Center, including floor plans, an early design model, and construction updates. "Remembering Ford & Sydeman Halls" can be accessed on the web at www.library.brandeis.edu/specialcollections/specialevents/ford.

Construction is also proceeding on the Lois Foster Wing of the Rose Art Museum, a gift of **Henry** and **Lois Foster** of Palm Beach and Boston. The groundbreaking ceremony took place this summer on August 16, and completion is scheduled for June 2001. The wing

will add approximately 7,300 square feet to the Museum, including 4,800 square feet of exhibition space for the Rose's *permanent* collection.

On Sunday, November 19, the University will celebrate the opening of the Women's Studies Research Center, located in the completely refurbished and renovated Epstein Building at the south end of campus. The Center will be home to the Scholars-in-Residence in Women's Studies and the Hadassah International Research Institute on Jewish Women. Using an innovative model of interdisciplinary research, the Center integrates the arts, social sciences and humanities, and includes a small research library, a community room, a multi-purpose classroom, art studio, and office space. The opening celebration will focus on the arts, with a one-woman show by Kansas City sculptor, Rita Blitt, who created the 9-foot outdoor sculpture, "Inspiration," which will serve as the Center's logo.

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A university is only as good as its faculty, and Brandeis faculty are among the very best. They continue to reap honors for their scholarly and creative contributions. Assistant Professor of Biology **Gina Turrigiano** is one of 25 new MacArthur Fellows named in June by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. She receives \$500,000 and is the third Brandeis faculty member in as many years to receive the so-called "genius" award. **Nikolaus Grigorieff**, W.M. Keck Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, has been named an Assistant Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Other current Hughes Investigators at Brandeis are Professor of Biochemistry **Christopher Miller**, Associate Professor of Biochemistry **Melissa Moore**, and Professor of Biology **Michael Rosbash**. Hughes Investigatorships are among the science community's most prized and highly sought after awards. **Wenbin Lin**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry and a Sloan Fellow, has received a Beckman Foundation Young Investigator Award, only the second Brandeis faculty member to be so honored. Assistant Professor of Physics **Jané Kondev** is Brandeis's latest recipient of the National Science Foundation's prestigious Faculty Early Career Development award. One of 350 recipients from among 2,000 applicants nationwide, Professor Kondev will receive \$220,000 over four years as part of the award. Professor of Linguistics **Ray Jackendoff** has been elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Associate Professor of Art **Tom Bills** and Adjunct Senior Critic in Art **Richard Ryan** have each been awarded Guggenheim Fellowships for 2000.

Associate Professor of Computer Science **Jordan Pollack** and **Hod Lipson**, a post-doctoral researcher in design automation, made national news earlier this year with the results of their research, originally published in the August 31 issue of *Nature*, reporting the first time that robots have designed and constructed other robots. The experimental machines now being born at the University's Dynamical & Evolutionary Machine Organization [DEMO] Laboratory represent a new step towards the autonomy of artificial life and may be to robotics what Kitty Hawk was to aviation. Professor Pollack and Dr. Lipson's research can be found at www.demo.cs.brandeis.edu/golem.

The National Center on Hunger and Poverty has moved from Tufts University to our Heller Graduate School. Directed by Heller School alumnus, Dr. **J. Larry Brown**, Ph.D. '71, the Center is supported by the Ford Foundation, the Public Welfare Foundation, and the Foundation for Child Development, as well as \$3 million from Rhode Island philanthropist **Alan Shawn**. The Center strengthens the Heller School's mission of advancing social justice through research and teaching focused on America's most vulnerable populations. The Center was most recently involved in passage of the Hunger Relief Act of October, 2000, a

bipartisan bill sponsored by Senators Edward Kennedy and Arlen Specter, which eliminates barriers to food stamp participation erected at the time welfare devolution policy passed in 1996.

Two of the most important moments in a faculty member's professional life are the decisions about tenure and promotion. This spring, the Board of Trustees approved promotion to Full Professor for **Marc Brettler**, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, **Mary Baine Campbell**, English and American Literature, **Jeff Gelles**, Biochemistry, and **Richard Parmentier**, Anthropology. The Board also approved promotion to Associate Professor with the award of tenure for **Michael J. Kahana**, Psychology, **Ann Olga Koloski-Ostrow**, Classical Studies, **Michael Randall**, French and Comparative Literature, **Ruibao Ren**, Biology, **Melissa Jeanne Moore**, Biochemistry, and **Liuba Shrira**, Computer Science.

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Universities must be fully computerized in order to serve their students and faculty. During the summer, we updated the campus electronics network, ensuring that each student now has his or her own data connection. Information Technology Services upgraded three computer clusters, and cable television connections have been added in student rooms, classrooms and some faculty offices. MediaOne, the University's cable provider, delivers 66 channels, including seven foreign language channels and an additional six channels reserved for use by the University.

Today's undergraduate education requires the integration of technology into campus-based academics. Through the Center for Instructional Media and Technology (CIMTech), Brandeis has introduced a number of creative uses of technology in undergraduate teaching. The Center integrates Information Technology Services, the Brandeis Libraries, the Feldberg Communication Center's campus-wide computer infrastructure, and a series of electronically equipped classrooms, including a Faculty Development Laboratory and a specially equipped electronic "model classroom." Faculty members implement their ideas for new instructional materials with support from academic technology specialists and student technicians. Two dozen faculty projects have been completed to date or are underway, resulting in new and enhanced undergraduate courses that employ software, on-line demonstration projects, self-directed learning and interactive reference materials. Here are three examples:

- Using three-dimensional imaging software provided by CIMTech, Professor **Colin Steele** [Chemistry] developed precise visual representations of the paths taken by molecules passing through a quadropole mass spectrometer, thereby providing his students with a three-dimensional understanding of events that previously were conceivable only in the abstract.
- Professor **Richard Gaskins** [American Studies] uses the Internet to teach students how to do legal research using on-line government documents.
- In a course on Chemistry and Art, Professor **Michael Henchman** [Chemistry] has developed a site on the Internet that presents scientific evidence regarding the Van Meergeren forgeries of Vermeer portraits.

The Center's personnel show faculty how their course materials can have greater impact using the new tools of audio/video CD-ROM or Digital VideoDisc technology. One CIMTech innovation is to have faculty members and students work in teams, thereby

allowing the faculty to instruct students about the subject matter while students educate the faculty about the fine points of how to use the technology.

Assembling faculty expertise into an interdepartmental unit, we have developed a program in The Internet and Society, with a curriculum drawn from computer science, economics, anthropology, politics, English, fine arts and the library. Ultimately, we expect the program to encompass additional areas of scholarship and to inspire significant research linking the Internet with the process of rapid global change.

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With this letter, I wish to inform you of a number of personnel changes in the administration of the University. In September, Provost **Irving Epstein** informed me that he will step down at the end of the current academic year. Irv has served as Provost for nearly seven years, and for two years before that as Dean of Arts and Sciences. During that time, he has confronted a number of challenging issues facing the Academy. He has provided tireless service, sound judgment and wise counsel. Brandeis has benefited from his commitment and dedication. Irv will continue to be an active member of the Brandeis community as a teacher and distinguished scientific researcher.

The position of Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs is one of the most important and challenging academic leadership posts at this or any other research university. I have named a faculty advisory committee under the chairmanship of Professor **Marty Wyngaarden Krauss** of the Heller School to work with an executive recruitment firm to identify a highly qualified scholar and academic administrator for this position. Other members of the faculty advisory committee are Professor **Marc Brettler** [Near Eastern & Judaic Studies], Professor **Stephen Dowden** [Germanic & Slavic Languages], Professor **Karen Hansen** [Sociology], Professor **Adam Jaffe** [Economics], Professor **Michael Kahana** [Psychology], Professor **Charles McClendon** [Fine Arts], Professor **Wellington Nyangoni** [African & Afro-American Studies], and Professor **Gregory Petsko** [Biochemistry].

At the start of the new academic year, we welcomed new staff and faculty and bid farewell to others. **Jean C. Eddy** is the new Senior Vice President for Students and Enrollment. This new position reflects my decision to upgrade "student life" and streamline "student affairs." Formerly Vice President for Enrollment at Northeastern University, Jean is responsible for undergraduate admissions, financial aid, the Registrar's Office, student accounts, institutional research, as well as for student affairs, including residence life, career services, student activities, multicultural programs, counseling, health services, religious life, and athletics. She has moved quickly to reorganize staff functions, and her impact is already being felt on campus. **Richard P. Sawyer** has been named Dean of Student Life.

Jessie Ann Owens, Professor of Music and a member of the Brandeis faculty since 1984, is our new Dean of Arts and Sciences. Jessie Ann is a distinguished scholar of Renaissance music whose most recent book, *Composers at Work: The Craft of Musical Composition 1450 – 1600*, won the 1998 ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award. She succeeds **Robin Feuer Miller**, Professor of Russian and Comparative Literature, who served as Dean for five years and has returned to the faculty, and **Anne P. Carter**, who served as Acting Dean. **James Hurley** has joined the administration as Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning, having served previously as Associate Dean for Administration and Finance at New York University's School of Education. **Judith R. Sizer** is our new General Counsel. Before coming to Brandeis in 1992, Judy was an Associate at Ropes & Gray in Boston and

before that Assistant to the General Counsel at Yale University. She succeeds **Tamar Hajian**, who served Brandeis for more than twelve years and has now taken the position of Senior Program Development Consultant with a firm specializing in international negotiations and training. **Elizabeth Hendler** joined the General Counsel's Office in September as Associate General Counsel. The campus community also bade a final farewell to Rabbi **Richard Israel**, who served this past year as Jewish Chaplain and died in July while on a hiking trip with his son. The Brandeis community was also deeply saddened by the death of Trustee **Susan Bailis '67**, who succumbed to breast cancer in September. Susan was a highly visible and accomplished woman, who used her Brandeis education and training as a social worker to create several thriving businesses and left a remarkable legacy of community activism. For the past two years, she served as chair of the Heller School's Board of Overseers.

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The University's Board of Trustees is also changing, and I am pleased to announce nine new members. **Kenneth S. Kaiserman '60**, President of Kaiserman Company, Inc. of Philadelphia, who served previously as an Alumni Term Trustee, rejoined the Board this past May. **Ralph C. Martin II '74**, Suffolk County [Massachusetts] District Attorney, has been elected an Alumni Term Trustee. Also elected is **Lois E. Silverman** of Boston, President and Founder of The Commonwealth Institute for Leadership in Business, a non-profit organization for the advancement of women entrepreneurs and a member of the National Board of the Brandeis University Women's Studies Program. **Sharyn T. Sooho '69** has been selected to fill the unexpired term of the late **Richard Saivetz '69**, former President of the Brandeis Alumni Association, who died suddenly and tragically last April. President of the architectural firm of Bradford Saivetz & Associates, Richie held many top volunteer positions, including president of the Greater Boston Alumni Chapter and national chairman of the Alumni Annual Fund. He also served as chairman of the Class of 1969 Reunion Gift Committee and was, together with his wife **Carol Saivetz '69**, a generous donor to their *alma mater*. Sharyn Sooho is an attorney in Newton, Massachusetts, specializing in family law. She will serve as a Trustee *ex officio* for this academic year. Also elected in May as a Trustee *ex officio* is the new President of the Brandeis University National Women's Committee, **Gayle J. Wise** of San Diego, California. **John "Jack" M. Connors, Jr.** of Boston, Chairman and CEO of Hill/Holliday Advertising Inc., **Jonathan Davis '75** of Newton, Massachusetts, President of The Davis Companies, **James O. Freedman** of Cambridge, Massachusetts, President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and former President of Dartmouth College, and **Michael Steinhardt** of New York City, Managing Member of Steinhardt Management LLC, were elected Trustees this fall.

As some of you may already know, Board of Trustees Chairman **Steve Grossman** has announced his candidacy for election as Governor of Massachusetts in 2002, and thus will step down as Chairman at the close of the academic year. Steve has provided strong and dedicated leadership during his term as Chairman, and I am delighted that he has chosen to remain a member of our Board. At its October meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the election of **Stephen B. Kay** to assume the position of Chairman immediately following the May 2001 commencement. Steve is a Senior Director of Goldman Sachs and has been a President's Councilor for more than twenty years. Elected to the Board of Trustees in 1999, he currently chairs the Board's Investment Committee.

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This September we welcomed the Class of 2004, drawn from the largest and one of the most academically talented applicant pools in the University's history, and the group with the lowest admission rate in nearly 30 years. The men and women of the first-year class come from 42 states and 33 countries. International students make up seven percent of the class and 16 percent are students of color.

Orientation Core Committee Coordinator **Jennifer Krasner '01**, 165 student volunteers and 60 Resident Advisors, welcomed the 865 new students in a flawless orientation, capped by the New Student Forum, which focused on **James McBride's** *The Color of Water*, a remarkable story of blended racial identity. Mr. McBride received an enthusiastic welcome and engaged the students in a vigorous discussion about his experiences of growing up in a poor, multi-racial home. The New Student Forum ended with Mr. McBride and his jazz band performing their first U. S. concert.

Third and fourth year undergraduates are now being trained as peer mentors to assist first-year students in academic consultations and co-curricular programming. Named for Eleanor Roosevelt, an early professor and Trustee at Brandeis, the Roosevelt Fellows supplement the academic advising and support services provided by faculty and staff. Roosevelt Fellows are available for drop-in consultation, and they facilitate programs in residence halls on topics ranging from goal setting to cross-cultural communication.

The University administration has also been working with members of the Graduate Student Association, the graduate student representative to the Board of Trustees, and various *ad hoc* graduate student groups to provide affordable health benefits for graduate students. Beginning this year, the University will contribute 20 percent of the cost of the Chickering Health Insurance Plan plus the Health Center fee for all fully-funded graduate students. We have made a commitment to increase this contribution to 60 percent by the 2002-2003 academic year. We also plan to improve access to the Psychological Counseling Center for graduate students. I am also pleased to report that the *increase* in doctoral student stipends for the 2000-2001 academic year is the largest in 8 years. During the past decade, stipends have increased anywhere from 48 percent to 120 percent, depending upon program. As part of the long-range effort to improve the graduate student experience at Brandeis, space will be set aside for graduate student use in the new Shapiro Campus Center.

In closing, I thought I would share with you an excerpt from a recent editorial in *The Justice*, Brandeis's student newspaper. It speaks for itself: "After years of complaining that there is nothing to do at Brandeis, the large turnout at recent events, such as Saturday's Pachanga, seem to signify a change for the better in Brandeis's social atmosphere."

I wish you all a very pleasant and enjoyable holiday season with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Jehuda Reinharz

JR: dbm