

April 2001

Dear Friends,

In May, Brandeis will celebrate its 50th commencement. The honorary degree recipients will include **Linda Chavez-Thompson** (executive vice president of the AFL-CIO); Brandeis Trustee **Stuart Eizenstat** (former deputy secretary of the Treasury and former ambassador to the European Union); **Jack Lemmon** (veteran screen and stage actor), who portrayed Brandeis professor Morrie Schwartz in *Tuesdays with Morrie*; and **Peter S. Lynch** (Fidelity vice chairman), who will deliver the commencement address. In addition to his business acumen, Mr. Lynch is the tireless leader of the Inner-City Scholarship Fund, which has provided millions of dollars to help underwrite the education of Boston's inner-city children. The Lynch Foundation supports a variety of religious, educational and health-care organizations. A Trustee of Boston College, the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and Chairman of the Catholic Schools Foundation, Mr. Lynch has helped steer the American Ireland Fund, the nation's largest private sector foundation promoting peaceful change in Ireland, North and South. Also being honored at this year's commencement are **Bernard Marcus** (co-founder of The Home Depot), whose Marcus Institute of Atlanta assists youth with brain disorders; Boston Celtics' basketball legend **Bill Russell**, an advocate for mentoring young people; and Brandeis Trustee **Barton J. Winokur**, chairman of the Philadelphia law firm of Dechert, a tireless supporter of the University since 1983, and chair of the board from 1995 to 1999.

Last spring, I began my letter with news about the success of the Brandeis Debate and Speech Society. I am pleased to report that the team has actually surpassed its earlier remarkable achievements. In January, 10 team members participated in the World Debating Championship held in Glasgow, Scotland. **Gregory A. Wilson 'G** (English & American Literature), coach of the team, and **Storey W. Clayton '02** (Albuquerque, New Mexico), the Debate Society's president, were the **top two North American speakers**. In the separate Public Speaking Competition, **Gregory Wilson 'G** and **Benjamin I. Brandzel '03** (Berkeley, California) were the only Americans among seven finalists, a first in Brandeis's history. And on February 2-4, the Society capped that success by winning the North American Debating Championships held at Cornell University. The team of **Adam R. Zirkin '01** (Syosset, New York) and **Storey W. Clayton '02** defeated teams from Columbia, Columbia Law School, Harvard, McGill, Princeton and Yale en route to winning the prestigious Bates-Queens cup.

Other Brandeis students who achieved success outside the classroom are **Rashad A. Williams '02** (Redwood City, California), who reached 1,000 career points in the third basketball game of this year, and **Hannah R. Johnson '02** (Greenwood, Indiana), who set two school records and qualified for the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships in the 1- and 3- meter dive. This fall, the men's soccer team qualified for the Eastern College Athletic Conference [ECAC] Division III New England Tournament for the ninth time since 1990. The women's cross country team won the University Athletic Association [UAA] championship for the second straight time and third time overall. And the women's volleyball team qualified for the ECAC Division III New England Tournament for the second straight year. The men's baseball team finished second in the IIAA championship, and our women fencers took

the team, epee and saber titles at the UAA championship. I congratulate all of our Brandeis athletes.

On the academic side, **Lisa Cloutier '02** (Hopkinton, Massachusetts) has been named a Truman Scholar for 2001. Lisa is a double concentrator in Economics and Politics with a minor in Women's Studies. She is one of only 70 students nationally to receive the \$30,000 award that will allow her to attend graduate or professional school in preparation for a career in government or public service. **Wendi Adelson '01** is one of only 10 students selected in a nationwide competition to spend a year in Washington as a Junior Research Fellow with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Lisa and Wendi's interest in public service is part of a long tradition at Brandeis of which I am particularly proud. In this 40th anniversary year of the founding of the Peace Corps, Brandeis ranks seventh among small colleges and universities with alumni currently serving as Peace Corps Volunteers.

Arwen B. Long '01 (West Chicago, Illinois) is one of only 10 students nationwide awarded a Churchill Scholarship, which enables outstanding American students to do a year of graduate study in engineering, mathematics and the physical and natural sciences at Churchill College, Cambridge University. Arwen, who will graduate with concentrations in biology, biochemistry, and music and a minor in chemistry, will pursue research in the Academic Neurosurgical Unit of Cambridge University. Arwen has also been admitted to the M.D./Ph.D. program at Duke, which she will enter following her year in Cambridge. **Aryn H. Gittis '01** (Pulaski, Pennsylvania), who will complete a concentration in neuroscience and a minor in French, has been awarded a Fulbright, enabling her to pursue work in a laboratory in Paris. **Jomar D. White '02** (Seal Beach, California), an anthropology concentrator with a minor in East Asian studies has received a Freeman-ASIA grant to support his study in China next semester.

Before arriving on campus this fall, the Brandeis Class of 2005 will read *Caucasia* by **Danzy Senna**, a story of growing up in a biracial family in 1970s Boston, in preparation for the **Helen** and **Philip Brecher** New Student Forum that launches the 2001-2002 academic year. The Class of 2005 is drawn from an all-time record of more than 6,700 applicants, up nearly 10 per cent from last year, and its acceptance rate is the lowest in more than 30 years. The class's average SAT and rank in high school are among the highest ever.

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The Brandeis faculty and staff also continue to earn special recognition. Professor **Mary Baine Campbell** (English and American Literature) has been awarded the James Russell Lowell Prize of the Modern Language Association of America for her book, *Wonder and Science: Imagining Worlds in Early Modern Europe*. Dr. **Susan M. Kahn** (Senior Research Director, Hadassah International Research Institute on Jewish Women) was awarded the National Jewish Book Award for *Reproducing Jews: A Cultural Account of Assisted Conception in Israel*. Earlier this year, a committee of the National Academy of Sciences, chaired by Heller School Dean **Jack Shonkoff**, released *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*, which urges a thorough re-examination of the nation's policies that affect young children and a bolstering of investments in their well-being.

Professor **Michael Rosbash** (Biology), a Howard Hughes Medical Institute [HHMI] Investigator, was chosen by the Institute to present his groundbreaking work

on circadian rhythms to thousands of high school classrooms worldwide in a four-part presentation via the Institute's virtual lecture series. Professor **Lawrence Wanh** (Biology), along with team members **Kenneth Pierce**, **John Rice**, **J. Aquiles Sanchez** and **Cristiana Hartshorn**, has developed a highly reliable and accurate way to offer at-risk couples information they can use to avoid having children affected with hemophilia, Duchennes' muscular dystrophy and other serious hereditary disorders linked to the X chromosome. Professor **David J. DeRosier**, the Abraham S. and Gertrude Berg Professor of Life Sciences and Director of the Keck Institute for Cellular Visualization, has been awarded the National Science Foundation's Alexander Hollaender Award in biophysics for his development of three-dimensional image reconstruction methods. Professor **Mitch Cherniack** (Computer Science) has received the National Science Foundation's prestigious Faculty Early Career Development Award and will receive \$320,000 over four years to support his research. Professor Cherniack, Professor **Richard Alterman**, Professor **Timothy J. Hickey**, and Professor **James A. Storer**, all of Computer Science, are recipients of major research grants awarded to them under the National Science Foundation's new \$90 million Information Technology Research initiative.

During the past year, Brandeis faculty have developed an Internet Studies program, the first of its kind in the nation. Scheduled to be launched this fall, the program has received worldwide media attention and will enable students to examine how the internet is transforming society, using the perspectives of computer science, economics, anthropology, literature and fine arts. Brandeis's graduate program in Theater Arts has also received media attention for its commitment to diversity in the arts by recruiting aspiring actors of color. Nearly thirty percent of the students in the graduate Theater Arts program are African-American.

This fall, we will launch a concentration in Italian Studies, prompted by student interest in Italian language, history, art and culture. Also planned is an interdisciplinary program in Religious Studies that will draw on faculty in Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Fine Arts, History, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Philosophy. The program applies critical tools to the various religious traditions.

Beginning this June, Brandeis will offer a new graduate-level dual degree, a Master of Business Administration from the Heller School and a Master of Arts from the Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service. The program spans 27 months and includes coursework, a team consulting project, a seminar in Israel and two academic years of fieldwork experience in Boston-area Jewish organizations. Students will learn how to design and deploy new managerial strategies to create effective organizations that will serve the Jewish community.

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I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to Professor **Irving Epstein**, who steps down at the close of this academic year as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, a position he has held since 1994. As I noted in my fall letter, Irv has provided tireless service, sound judgment and wise counsel. We are fortunate that he will continue to be an active member of the Brandeis community. The search committee for the new Provost, chaired by Professor **Marty Wyngaarden Krauss** (Heller School), has completed its work. Finalist candidates will

visit the campus this spring, hopefully enabling me to announce appointment of the new Provost by commencement.

The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life has kept the campus actively engaged with a series of innovative programs. In January, longtime peace activist **Pete Seeger**, together with community educator **Jane Sapp**, performed to a standing-room-only audience in Spingold as part of our program "Building Community Through Songs of Social Justice," sponsored by the Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence of the Center. In December, the Center hosted a program, "Intervention and Prevention: the Lessons of Kosovo," whose participants included Justice **Richard Goldstone**, justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa and former chief prosecutor of the United Nations' War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia; **Dejan Anastasijevic**, a Belgrade-based writer for *TIME* magazine; **Joly Dixon**, deputy special representative of the secretary general in the United Nations Mission in Kosovo; and **Michael Ignatieff**, writer and member of the Independent International Commission on Kosovo, among others.

The Center's Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence convened a retreat of eight current Brandeis students and three recent alumni (principally Arab and Jewish students from Israel and Jordan) to explore the current situation in the Middle East and how they can act publicly to work towards peace and coexistence. Several of the participants are beneficiaries of the Slifka Scholarship and included **Judah Ariel '04**, **Taher Baderkhan '03**, **Michael Bavly '00**, **Yoav Borowitz '00**, **Forsan Hussein '00**, **Maisa Khshaibon '03**, **Daniel Langenthal 'G**, **Zein Nasif '03**, **Marina Pevzner '04**, **Munther Samawi '04**, and **Waseem Yahya '04**.

In January, a daylong symposium, "Catholics, Jews and the Prism of Conscience," was highlighted with a talk by **James Carroll**, a former priest, whose most recent book, *Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews*, has sparked heated discussion because of its criticism of the Catholic Church. Several of the symposium participants cited Carroll's work as a model for self-criticism.

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In March, Brandeis celebrated another standing-room-only, hugely successful student-run Culture X program in which 17 student performing groups celebrated diversity at Brandeis. Congratulations for this year's excellent event go to coordinators **Gardy Guiteau '01** of Randolph, MA; **Yonca Heyse '02** of Istanbul, Turkey; **Ashika Jain '02** of Floral Park, NY; and **Amber Rohner '01** of Pa'ia, Hawaii. Also in March, Asian Awareness 2001 celebrated the diversity of the Asian student community, and Caribbean Week 2001 will take place later this month.

The annual Festival of the Arts took place from March 22 to April 1 and offered a Rose Art Museum exhibition of four decades of minimal art; a photographic exhibit by **Candida Höfer**; a student dance extravaganza by Adagio Dance Company; an Asian-American Arts Exhibition of work by Brandeis students; a staged reading of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*; the "World of Imagination," an event that brings alumni in such creative fields as film, television, design and theater to campus to meet with students; a concert by the Brandeis University Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Artist-in-Residence **Neil Hampton**; and a new play, "Professional Skepticism," by Theater Arts graduate student **James Rasheed**; among others

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In February, Brandeis University bid farewell to one of its most beloved trustees, **Jacob "Jack" Hiatt**, who died at the age of 95. Jack emigrated to Worcester, Massachusetts from Lithuania in the 1930s and was elected a Brandeis Trustee in 1962, serving as Chair of the Board from 1971 to 1977. Among his many Brandeis benefactions are the Hiatt Program in Jerusalem, the Hiatt Career Center, and the Myra and Robert Kraft and Jacob Hiatt Chair of Christian Studies. During his long association with Brandeis, Jack Hiatt also created scholarships and fellowships for deserving Brandeis students. As Jack was fond of noting, "Every dollar contributed to higher education is the best investment that we can make to assure a healthy and free America for our children and grandchildren."

In March, Waltham native and trustee **Samuel N. Stroum** succumbed to pancreatic cancer at age 79. Sam's dedication and commitment to Brandeis were enormous. As I reported in my November letter, Sam and his wife, **Althea**, recently made a \$10 million gift to endow scholarships for top Waltham High School graduates and 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. We were fortunate to be able to honor Sam and Althea in Palm Beach in January.

Even as the University says a final goodbye to two special trustees, we welcome new trustees, Mrs. **Phyllis Redstone** (community volunteer), Mr. **Eugene Ribakoff** (businessman and community leader), Ms. **Jeanette P. Lerman '69**, (principal of J. P. Lerman & Co.), and businessman Mr. **Richard H. Kaufman '57**. **Rosalind F. Kaufman '59**, an attorney, and her husband, Richard, will serve as co-chairs of the Board of Fellows through commencement 2004. During a recent trip to California, I had the pleasure of hooding Ms. **Cynthia Berenson** of Boston and Palm Springs as a member of the Board of Fellows. Ms. Berenson is a generous donor to the Women's Studies program and an active member of its National Board. Since January, I have also had the pleasure of hooding Mr. **Herbert C. Lee** of Palm Beach, Florida and Mr. **Yehuda Cohen '81** of Chicago, Illinois as members of the Board of Fellows. Mr. Lee and his wife, Mickey, who is also a member of the Board of Fellows, are generous benefactors and patrons of the arts. Yehuda Cohen has been an active supporter of his alma mater and served from 1995 to 1997 as President of the Alumni Association.

Mr. **Gerald Fineberg**, chair of the board of the Fineberg Companies of Wellesley, Massachusetts, has accepted appointment as chair of the Rose Art Museum Board of Overseers, effective this July. Jerry and his wife, **Sandra**, have amassed one of the great collections of contemporary art, several pieces of which they have generously donated to the Rose permanent collection. Jerry succeeds Mrs. **Jill Starr**, chair of the Board of Overseers since 1995. We all thank Jill for her service. Jill and her husband, **Sherman**, are generous benefactors, who created the Starr Student Curatorship at the Rose and the Starr Plaza that leads to the Bernstein-Marcus Administration Center.

In September, a gala celebration will inaugurate the opening of the new Lois Foster Wing of the Rose Art Museum. A special symposium of artists, who contributed to the cultural transformation of the 1960s, will include **Jim Dine**, **Al Held**, **Alex Katz**, **Ellsworth Kelly**, **Larry Rivers** and **Jim Rosenquist**. The Rose's first director, **Sam Hunter**, will curate an exhibit of the early work of these artists, and the Rose's current director, **Joseph Kettner**, will curate an exhibit of some of their most recent works.

Many of the pieces on display in this special inaugural Foster Wing exhibition were acquired by Sam Hunter during his Rose directorship and are part of the Rose permanent collection.

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Work on the Shapiro Campus Center continues on schedule for its fall 2002 opening. The University has launched a new construction project by completing a preliminary plan for a two-phase, 350-bed undergraduate residence project. The first phase, approved by the Board of Trustees in March, will be a 200-bed facility to house juniors and seniors, located near Ziv Quad. Architect selection is scheduled for this month and the opening planned for the fall 2003. In response to the difficulties experienced by graduate students in obtaining affordable housing, a joint effort is underway with the City of Waltham to develop graduate student apartments in the vicinity of the campus. Discussions are also underway between the University and the American Jewish Historical Society regarding possible acquisition of the Society's building, located at the edge of the Brandeis campus.

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Brandeis possesses unusual strength in the sciences, and I am pleased to report that the University, in cooperation with Harvard Medical School, has received a \$7.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop the tools and methods essential for understanding the structural biology of the cell. Professor **David DeRosier** (Biology) and Professor **Nikolaus Grigorieff** (Biochemistry), an HHMI Investigator are two of the four principal investigators. A portion of the nearly \$5 million directed to Brandeis will make possible the purchase of a Tecnai F30 electron microscope, the most powerful instrument of its kind in North America. Brandeis has also received a \$3 million anonymous gift to establish a chair in neurobiology. The State Street Bank made a \$500,000 gift in honor of **Missy and Marshall Carter** for a program in the Women's Studies Research Center that will explore the relation among families, workplaces and communities. The estate of **Otto Plaat** has provided a bequest of \$2.5 million for scholarships, and Ms. **Wallis Annenberg** has provided funds for the purchase of two vans for student transportation needs. The Mellon Foundation has provided a second \$900,000, five-year grant to support interdisciplinary postdoctoral teaching fellows. Each year, academic departments are invited to compete by submitting proposals on an interdisciplinary theme. Successful topics have included the interplay of ethnicity, illness and health; constructions of song, body and gender in early modern Europe; and race in contemporary American politics and society.

Finally, I am pleased that the campus-wide community fora, a "tradition" of the past two years, have been well attended. They have provided open and wide-ranging discussion and have contributed to a strong, cohesive spirit on campus. I wish you all a very pleasant and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

Jehuda Reinharz

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