

November 2002

Dear Friends,

Earlier this month, I traveled to Singapore, Bangkok and Hong Kong, cities that are home to many current Brandeis students and alumni. While there, I visited secondary schools and held open receptions for alumni, parents and prospective students. I have made similar annual trips each year since becoming president nine years ago, and I think they have served the University well. The demands upon a president's time are enormously varied and seemingly without end. I am, however, deeply committed to strengthening the admission of undergraduate students from across the country and around the world. For example, the entering Class of 2006 includes students from seven Asian countries and 25 other nations around the globe. Each of these students brings an added dimension to the campus that enriches the undergraduate experience for all students. One of my goals is to increase the proportion of international students at Brandeis.

Similarly, I hope to see an increase in the number of students who choose to spend a semester or a year abroad. Because our world is becoming "smaller" and more complex, living in a foreign culture provides an educational experience that cannot be obtained in the classroom. Currently, approximately 20 per cent of the junior class studies abroad, a percentage that has increased in each of the last four years. Popular destinations are the United Kingdom, Australia, Spain, France, Italy, New Zealand and Israel. Brandeis students have also studied in Cameroon, Cuba, Mongolia, Thailand and Uganda.

Our current undergraduates not only come from diverse backgrounds, but also have diverse talents. **Melissa Morales '03** (Los Angeles, California), for example, received the National Institutes of Health Undergraduate Scholarship for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds, one of nine recipients from a nationwide pool of 160. The \$20,000 scholarship includes participation in a 10-week summer internship under the mentorship of an NIH principal investigator and a paid, one-year research training program at NIH following graduation. **Sravanna Reddy '06**, who entered Brandeis this fall as a Wien Scholar from Bangalore, India, authored a book of poems, *No Limited God*, at age 16. Over 90 of her poems have appeared in leading newspapers in India. **Mohsin Gadit '03** (Kansas City, Missouri), a member of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, was selected to attend the 28th Annual Business Today International Conference in New York City later this month. The conference brings together senior executives and students from leading schools in 16 countries to discuss corporate leadership under adversity.

More than 6,000 students applied for admission to this fall's entering class of 838 students. They hail from 41 states and 32 foreign countries. Average SAT scores rose to 1337, the second highest in Brandeis history. While surveys that attempt to assess academic excellence quantitatively are limited in their relevance, I am nonetheless pleased to note that *U. S News & World Report* ranks Brandeis 31 among the 249 national universities that provide undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees.

Our students' success also stems from advising and mentoring. The 15 new 2002-2003 Roosevelt Fellows, upperclass peer academic advisors who work closely with faculty

advisors to assist first-year students, are **Jassa Chawla '03** (New Delhi, India), **Aarti Daswani '03** (Bangkok, Thailand), **Michelle Gaba '04** (Brooklyn, New York), **Gitanjali Harjani '04** (Mumbai, India), **Anant Jani '03** (Glendale Heights, IL), **Miriam Kingsberg '03** (Short Hills, NJ), **Stephanie Knepper '04** (Great Neck, NY), **Adam Koblenz '03** (Roslyn, NY), **Amy Kohen '03** (Newton, MA), **Gregory Lawrence '03** (Upper Saddle, NJ), **Skye Morse '03** (Guilford, VT), **Miriam Philips '03** (Seal Beach, CA), **Viveka Prakash '03** (Brookline, MA), **Mark Tapper '03** (Bloomfield Hills, MI), and **Nkemdilim Ukwu '03** (Bronx, NY).

The Brandeis women's basketball team has been named to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) 2002 Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll for NCAA III. The award recognizes highest team grade point averages, and Brandeis ranked first in New England. Five-time All-America in Cross Country and Indoor and Outdoor Track **Tamiko Tansey-Holbrook '03** (Trumansburg, NY) won the University Athletic Association Women's Cross Country championship and led the Judges to an overall second place team finish. The Brandeis Men's Soccer team, paced by **Keveral D. Stewart '05** (Clarendon, Jamaica), who finished second in UAA scoring with 10 goals and 10 assists, was selected to the Eastern College Athletic Conference New England Championships, and Men's Soccer Coach **Michael Coven** was named Coach of the Year by the University Athletic Association.

Like their counterparts at other schools, Brandeis students are increasingly taking advantage of internships, some of which lead to good jobs following graduation. According to the Cooperative Education and Internship Association, 42 per cent of students in internships nationwide accepted full-time positions with their internship provider in 2002 as compared to 33 per cent in 1998. As the economy has slowed, many employers have decreased campus interviewing. At Brandeis, however, the Hiatt Career Center has continued to draw a strong list of employers to campus, including American Express Financial Advisors, AmeriCorps, Citizens Bank, Commonwealth Financial, Deltek Systems, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Investors Bank & Trust, Jewish Education Service of North America, Memorial Sloan Kettering, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, Sun Life Financial, the Peace Corps and Teach for America, among others.

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Our graduate programs also continue to demonstrate excellence. Applications to Brandeis's doctoral programs have climbed rapidly from 770 applications in 1998 to 1123 applications in 2002, an increase of 46 per cent. As applications have risen, we have become increasingly selective and now admit only 18 per cent of all applicants. At the same time, the matriculation rate among graduate students rose from 33 per cent in 1999 to 47 per cent in 2002. Among the programs experiencing the most significant application increases were Chemistry, English and American Literature, History and Sociology.

Many graduates of the doctoral program in Sociology have been honored recently. Sociology graduate student **John B. Kelly** received the outstanding student paper award from the "Social Problems Theory" division of The Society for the Study of Social Problems, and **Valerie Leiter, Ph.D. '01** received the outstanding paper award from the Society's "Health, Health Policy and Health Services" division. **Kay Jenkins, Ph.D. '02** was co-winner of the Candace Rogers Award for the outstanding student paper award from the Eastern Sociological Association, **Barrie Thorne, Ph.D. '71**, Professor of Sociology at the University of California at Berkeley, received the Jessie Bernard Award for Outstanding Contributions to Scholarship in the Sociology of Gender from the American Sociological Association, and **Ruben Rumbaut, Ph.D. '78**, Professor of Sociology at University of California at Irvine,

received the Association's Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award for his book, *Legacies: The Story of the Immigrant Second Generation*. Two Ph.D. graduates of the History Department have reaped book awards. **Brian Kelly, Ph.D. '98**, received the Isaac Deutscher Award for *Race, Class and Power in the Alabama Coalfields, 1908-1921*, and **Jack Davis, Ph.D. '94**, was awarded the Charles Sydnor Prize for the best work in southern history for *Race Against Time*.

The success of our students clearly reflects the excellence of our faculty. Professor **Michael Rosbash** (Biology) has been awarded a National Institutes of Health grant of \$1.4 million for each of the next five years to support his research on the molecular genetics of behavior and neuronal function. Assistant Professor **Janè Kondev** (Physics) is one of 14 Cottrell Scholars nationwide. The award recognizes faculty who excel in both teaching and research and carries with it \$75,000 to further research and teaching. Professors **Melissa Moore** and **Christopher Miller** (Biochemistry) have each been re-appointed Howard Hughes Medical Investigators, one of the most prestigious recognitions in science. Professor **Nikolaus Grigorieff** (Biochemistry) received a \$750,000 Hughes Grant to renovate his fourth floor laboratory in the Rosenstiel Center, and Professor **Jeffrey Gelles** (Biochemistry) received a coveted MERIT award, which extends his National Institute of General Medical Sciences grant for three to five years beyond its originally recommended project period. The David and Lucille Packard Foundation has awarded \$1 million to a team of Brandeis scientists who are helping to advance our understanding of how memory is formed. The team, headed by Professor **Irving Epstein** (Chemistry), includes Professor **Leslie Griffith** (Biology), Professor **John Lisman** (Biology) and Professor **Xiao-Jing Wang** (Physics). Overall, sponsored program grants received by Brandeis faculty members in FY02 amounted to \$45.8 million.

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On November 3, the *Boston Sunday Globe* featured Professor **Kanan Makiya** (Near Eastern and Judaic Studies), an advisor to the Bush administration concerning the shape of a post-Saddam Iraq. An Iraqi exile since the Gulf War, Professor Makiya is the author of *Republic of Fear: The Inside Story of Saddam's Iraq* (1993) and *Cruelty and Silence: War, Tyranny and Uprising in the Arab World* (1998). His latest book, *The Rock: A Seventh Century Tale of Jerusalem*, weaves centuries-old stories from the three major religious traditions' holy books and other historical accounts. **Peter Petri**, Carl Shapiro Professor of International Finance and Dean of the Graduate School of International Economics and Finance, has been named economic advisor to the Bulgarian government by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy **Nikolay Vassilev**, a 1997 GSIEF graduate. Professor **Jonathan Sarna**, the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History, (Near Eastern and Judaic Studies) has been appointed historian for the new National Museum of American Jewish History, scheduled to open in Philadelphia in 2006.

New staff members of the Brandeis community include Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Employee Relations **Debra Gratto**, formerly at MIT, and Rose Art Museum Curator **Raphaela Platow**, who brings extensive knowledge of contemporary art, both nationally and internationally. Joining the University's Board of Trustees are Mr. **Daniel Jick '79**, Managing Director of Goldman Sachs & Company in Boston, who previously served as an Alumni Term Trustee; Mr. **Perry Traquina '78**, President of Wellington Management Company in Boston; and Ms. **Carol Ann Kern**, President of the Brandeis University National Women's Committee and an interior designer from Paradise Valley, Arizona.

This summer's inaugural *Brandeis in the Berkshires*, two five-day institutes for the discussion of moral, ethical and religious issues based on works by classic and contemporary thinkers, was a marvelous success. The institutes were largely funded by **Harold Grinspoon** of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and were inaugurated with dinners hosted by **Michael and Annette Miller '58**. Next summer's institutes, under the co-directorship of Dr. **Daniel Terris** and Professor **Sylvia Barack Fishman** (Near Eastern & Judaic Studies), have been increased to three and will include *Justice and Politics* (July 6-11); *Shifting Landscape: Jewish Life in 21st Century America* (July 27-August 1); and *Islam, Judaism, Christianity: Pluralism and Discord in the Contemporary World* (August 10-15). Brandeis faculty in next summer's institutes include Professor **Jonathan Sarna** (Near Eastern & Judaic Studies), Professor **Kanan Makiya** (Near Eastern & Judaic Studies) and Professor **Leonard Saxe** (Director, Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies), among others. Questions regarding the institutes should be directed to **Kathryn Levine** at (781) 736-3355 or berkshires@brandeis.edu.

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I want to extend my appreciation to all the friends, parents, trustees and alumni who made this past year the most successful ever fundraising year. As of the June 30 close of fiscal year 2002, the University received \$63.3 million in cash gifts, the third year in a row that Brandeis has raised more than \$61 million. Achieving this success in a year in which financial markets were shaken, the economy slowed, and our nation came under terrorist attack is testament to Brandeis's enduring mission and the excellence of the development staff.

The most precious financial gift for the University is unrestricted, allowing us to apply funds to the most pressing needs. Several of the gifts mentioned in this and earlier letters were thoughtfully given on an unrestricted basis and then designated by the University. I especially want to acknowledge the generosity of Trustee **Thomas Lee** and his wife, **Ann Tenenbaum**, for their unrestricted gift of \$5 million.

Our next highest priority is support for undergraduate scholarships. Several friends of Brandeis have responded generously. The estate of **Irving and Hazel Rothbart** has provided \$5 million in endowed scholarship support, and the estates of Mr. **Benjamin Brown** and Mr. **Simon Bond** have each provided \$1 million, while the estate of Mr. **Irvin Jaffe** provided \$1.5 million for scholarships in Fine Arts.

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On October 3, we formally inaugurated the new \$25 million Carl and Ruth Shapiro Campus Center. This magnificent facility at the heart of the campus reflects the central position of the student at Brandeis. Vibrant with student-run activities, the new building complements the services located in the Usdan Student Center and Kutz Hall. This past summer, a 50-student transition team volunteered to facilitate the move of student organizations into the Shapiro Campus Center. They worked to develop policies for building use, helped plan the building inauguration, and hosted a semi-formal affair for several hundred students to celebrate the Center's opening. The Shapiro Center's computer library, complete with working fireplace, is the new "hot spot" on campus.

This summer, we broke ground for a 220-bed residence hall for juniors and seniors, scheduled to open next fall. This project is the first step in the University's strategic plan to

fully meet the need for on-campus undergraduate housing, upgrade the quality of existing housing, and add capacity for off-campus graduate housing in close proximity to the campus. Several families have contributed generously to the new residence hall. Trustee **Jonathan '75** and **Margot Davis** have contributed \$2.5 million for the residence hall and scholarships; Brandeis parents **Thomas** and **Margot Pritzker** and Trustee **Ronald '69** and **Deborah Ratner** and family have each contributed \$2 million to the new residence hall; and Brandeis parents **Fred** and **Joan Lowenfels**, and Trustee **Art** and **Annie Sandler** have each contributed \$1 million. I thank all of you on behalf of the true beneficiaries, the many students, who, in the years ahead, will live in the new residence facility. I also want to thank **Tom** and **Margot Pritzker** for their generosity in hosting Brandeis Night 2002 in Chicago on October 16, an event at which alumni, parents, friends and members of the Brandeis National Women's Committee were treated to a thought-provoking presentation by Playboy Enterprises CEO and Chair of the Board **Christie Hefner '74** on "Truth Unto Its Innermost Parts — Ethics and Morality."

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In September, we broke ground on the new Lemberg Academic Center of the Graduate School of International Economics and Finance [GSIEF]. This \$8 million gift-funded project scheduled to open in fall 2003 is a first step in doubling enrollment and continuing to develop the Graduate School of International Economics and Finance into a world-class business school. GSIEF is a unique, international community of students and faculty with an academic program that emphasizes the study of global markets. Brandeis is indebted to **John** and **Adam Usdan** and their family, who have generously provided \$3.5 million in support of the new Lemberg Academic Center, named for John and Adam's grandfather, **Samuel Lemberg**. We also thank Mr. **Leonard Asper '86** whose gift of \$1.5 million helps make possible this marvelous new facility. Leonard is President and CEO of CanWest Global Communications Corporation and spoke earlier this semester to students and faculty on "Managing a Global Media Business." On October 10-11, GSIEF inaugurated the Rosenberg Institute of Global Finance, made possible through a generous \$2.5 million from **Barbara '54** and **Richard Rosenberg**. Barbara is a Brandeis Trustee and Richard is the former Chairman and CEO of Bank of America. Chairman of the Brandeis Board of Trustees **Stephen B. Kay** has committed \$2.5 million for an endowed chair that will be occupied by a current member of the faculty.

Work began in July on renovations in the Rosenstiel Center to accommodate the new FEI Technai Electron Microscope that will arrive in February 2003 and has been made possible by a \$1 million National Science Foundation grant. The new electron microscope is of major importance for our scientific research programs, especially in the life sciences. Also this summer, the University successfully concluded negotiations with the American Jewish Historical Society and acquired its building on campus. The building will be renamed the Abraham Shapiro Academic Center in honor of founding Brandeis Trustee **Abraham Shapiro** and in acknowledgement of the generosity and vision of his son and daughter-in-law, Trustee **Robert '52** and **Valya '61 Shapiro**, whose gift of \$3.2 million will make possible a complete renovation and remodeling of this valuable addition to the campus.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to **Gerald and Sandra Fineberg** for their generous \$2.5 million gift to renovate the upper gallery in the Rose Art Museum. The new Gerald S. and Sandra Fineberg Gallery is the second phase of the Rose's renovation and expansion plans. Among the world's top art collectors, the Finebergs have been actively engaged with the Rose for more than a decade, and Mr. Fineberg currently chairs the Museum's Board of

Overseers. Two exhibits now on view at the Rose are *Fictions: New Narratives in Contemporary Photography and Video* and *Skin to Bones: Painting Since 1970*. *Fictions*, sponsored by **Sandra and Gerald Fineberg**, presents a cross section of artists whose work characterizes the shift toward the cinematic and the narrative of the past twenty years. *Skin to Bones* is a display of works in the Brandeis collection, curated by Dr. **Trevor Fairbrother**, the Henry Luce Visiting Scholar in American Art. The Luce Visiting Scholars program is conceived to perform research on the Brandeis art collection and to disseminate that research to the public.

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This semester, we have had the pleasure of hosting several special guests on campus. Two-time Booker Prize winner **J. M. Coetzee** conducted a fiction workshop with students and gave a public reading. The Booker Prize is awarded annually for the best novel of the year written by a citizen of the Commonwealth or Republic of Ireland. In November, we welcomed His Eminence **Walter Cardinal Kasper**, President of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, who addressed a diverse audience of religious and community representatives on the rapprochement between Jews and Christians to continue deepening their rapprochement. His Eminence **Bernard Cardinal Law** of the Boston Archdiocese accompanied him to campus. On November 20, Professor **Bernard Lewis**, Cleveland E. Dodge Professor of Near Eastern Studies, Emeritus, at Princeton University gave a public lecture entitled "What Went Wrong?," a title taken from his recent book on the Middle Eastern response to the impact of the West. The talk, delivered to an overflow crowd, inaugurated the new Hassenfeld Chair in Islamic Studies, established with a \$3 million gift from Trustee **Sylvia K. Hassenfeld**, her son, **Alan Hassenfeld**, and daughter, **Ellen Hassenfeld Block**.

As part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the creative arts at Brandeis, **Bobby McFerrin**, one of the world's best-known vocal innovators and improvisers, a world-renowned classical conductor and a passionate spokesman for music education, enchanted students and faculty during a two-day musical residency. On December 9, the Ambassador to the United States from the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency **Osman Faruk Logoglu '63** will deliver the opening remarks at a conference on Jewish Women in Turkey sponsored by the Hadassah International Research Institute on Jewish Women and underwritten by the Sadie Daniels Shapiro Endowment and the Robert and Valya Kazes Shapiro Fund.

In closing, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday season with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Jehuda Reinharz

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P.S. Approximately 14,000 alumni, parents and friends of the University now receive my letters electronically. If you wish to be added to the University's electronic mailing list, go to www.brandeis.edu/president and click on "President's Letters" in the left-hand column. I invite you to review our web site, which provides a wealth of information about the University.