

December 2003

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to write to you about the activity on campus this fall. In my 10th year as President of Brandeis, I am especially struck by the high levels of energy, commitment, and accomplishment that characterize our community. As you continue to read about the many exciting things happening here at Brandeis be assured that nothing can happen without your continued support.

Fall Travel

This fall I had the good fortune to meet with many of you personally during my visits to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Jerusalem. Despite stiff competition from the World Series, Brandeis Night in Chicago was a great success. Once again **Margot and Tom Pritzker, P'02**, hosted a great dinner and a wonderful speaker. **Kanan Makiya**, the Sylvia K. Hassenfeld Professor in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, gave us an insider's chronicle of the profound changes he sees occurring in post-war Iraq.

In Jerusalem, I met with a large group of alumni and current Brandeis students at the home of **Herb and Rose Shirwindt '57 Weinberg**. We had a lively exchange about the latest developments at Brandeis and the current situation in the Middle East.

Our First Alumnus Nobel Prize

This fall the campus was delighted to learn that Brandeis alumnus **Roderick MacKinnon '78** is the recipient of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. In partnership with Peter Agre at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, MacKinnon was honored for revealing the process of electronic signaling in human and other living organisms. His research helps explain the molecular "hardware" of the nervous system, responsible for making electricity and nerve cells that underlie all thought, sensation, and emotion. After graduating with high honors in biochemistry, MacKinnon returned to Brandeis for postdoctoral studies with his undergraduate mentor, **Christopher Miller**, professor of biochemistry and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator. MacKinnon is one of 12 winners of Brandeis University's Rosenstiel Award who have gone on to win the Nobel Prize.

Brandeis Faculty Honors

In October, former Secretary of Labor **Robert Reich**, University Professor, Maurice B. Hexter Professor, and Atran Professor of Labor Economics at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, was awarded the prestigious Dagmar and Vaclav Havel's Vision 97 Foundation Prize, which recognizes Czech and foreign thinkers who have "significantly helped extend the human horizon."

Jessie Ann Owens, the Louis, Frances, and Jeffrey Sachar Professor of Music, has become the 27th member of the Brandeis faculty to be elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and

Sciences. A distinguished scholar of Renaissance music and a superb teacher and mentor, Owens served as dean of arts and sciences at Brandeis from 2000 to 2003.

Congratulations also to **Stuart Altman**, the Sol. C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, who has been named “one of the 100 most powerful people in health care” by *Modern Healthcare*, the nation’s leading health care business publication. Altman celebrated his 25th year at Brandeis in the spring.

A Fulbright Senior Specialist grant was awarded to **Thomas Doherty**, associate professor of film studies (on the Sam Spiegel Fund), to work in U.S. studies and popular culture in the English department of the University of Waikato in New Zealand.

Professors **David DeRosier**, **Jeffrey Hall**, and **Michael Rosbash** have been elected members of The National Academy of Sciences (NAS), one of the highest honors accorded scientists in the United States. The trio’s election brings to six the number of our faculty in the NAS.

The National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD) has awarded a Distinguished Investigator grant to **John Lisman**, professor of biology and Volen National Center for Complex Systems, for the most promising psychiatric research in the United States and around the world, and a Young Investigator Grant to **Sridhar Raghavachari**, postdoctoral fellow in biology. Their joint research explores the role of NMDA receptors in the brain and their relation to schizophrenia.

Professor of Mathematics **Bong Lian** has been awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship to continue his studies in mirror symmetry, geometry, and arithmetic.

I was pleased to have been honored by The Posse Foundation, an organization started by Brandeis alumna **Deborah Bial ’87** in 1989. The Foundation recruits talented high school students from urban areas, trains them to become leaders, and sends them to selected universities to foster cross-cultural communication.

Brandeis First-Year Students

Senior Vice President for Students and Enrollment **Jean Eddy** reports 860 new first-year students and 74 mid-year first-year and transfer students. The average SAT (of admitted applicants) was 1348—11 points higher than last year. Our Early Admission application numbers for the fall of 2004 are outpacing last year at this time. We give preference to ambitious students whose first choice is Brandeis, and today we have more and more good reasons for the most talented high school seniors to place Brandeis at the top of their lists.

The Arts

On September 23, at a reception at The Mark Hotel in New York City, I had the privilege of presenting 138 Tibetan art objects from the University’s “Riverside Collection” to **His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso**. The items date from the 17th to 19th centuries and include rare tangkas (banner paintings), Buddhas, and masks, as well as Bodhisattvas, wood sculptures, musical instruments, and tea vessels.

One of our Library's most precious treasures—The **Benjamin A. and Julia M. Trustman** Collection's 3,000 original Daumier woodcuts—is going online. About half the woodcuts are now accessible at <http://library.brandeis.edu/specialcollections/daumier>, and the remainder will be online by spring 2004.

The modern art scene has been extraordinarily lively this fall at Brandeis. The Rose Art Museum hosted *Painting⁴*, featuring artists who think not only outside the box, but also outside the frame. *Painting⁴* highlights the talents of Ingrid Calame, Katharina Grosse, Michael Lin, and Jimmy O'Neal. The show has received great reviews in the local Boston press and was called a “a triumph for Brandeis” by the *Boston Phoenix*.

The Rose Art Museum Student Loan Program was reinstated this fall for fine arts majors. The collection contains works donated by devoted patrons, including University Fellow **Mickey Lee**, in honor of her father, Robert Schiff.

The art space at the Women's Studies Research Center offered a show of oversized sculptures of women by Kathleen Holmes.

Brandeis and the World

Brandeis's many centers and institutes afford the University opportunities to focus on some powerful contemporary issues. Since September 11, 2001, we have been able to call upon our centers and institutes to help our campus keep up with the world. This fall, through the joint effort of the Brandeis International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life, The Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry, and Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Israel, Brandeis hosted an international gathering of writers and scholars to examine how poetry, fiction, drama, and film can help people understand and cope with tragedy. **Rachel Talshir** and **Taha Muhammad Ali** from Israel, **Antjie Krog** from South Africa, **Boubacar Boris Diop** from Senegal and India, and **Peter Dale Scott** from Canada and the United States participated.

In early November, the second annual **Rosenberg Institute of Global Finance** explored the economic ramifications of September 11, 2001, and the new world order for social justice and corporate responsibility. Hosted by Brandeis's International Business School the conference, “*Winning Back the World: America's Challenges in the Global Economy*,” opened with a keynote speech delivered by **Douglas Daft**, chairman and CEO of The Coca Cola Company. The conference panels also featured **Leonard Asper '86**, CEO, CanWest Global Communications Corp. (Canada); **Masha Gessen**, editor in chief, Polit.ru (Russia); **Francesco Giavazzi**, professor at Luigi Bocconi University (Italy); **Robert Greenberger**, Supreme Court reporter, *Wall Street Journal*; and **Richard Rosenberg**, retired chairman and CEO, Bank of America. **Paul Solomon '66**, business correspondent for *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer* (PBS), served as moderator.

The **Ford Foundation** is funding an innovative pilot program between **Brandeis** and **Al-Quds University**. In December, a group of six Brandeis faculty and staff led by **Daniel Terris**, director of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life, traveled to East Jerusalem to meet with their counterparts at Al-Quds to collaborate on several projects related to the universities' academic, administrative, and technological infrastructure. We anticipate a return spring visit to

Brandeis by a group led by Dr. Khuloud Khayyat. A final, joint-planning proposal will be crafted and presented to the Ford Foundation.

Center for Middle East Studies

I am pleased to report that we have raised more than \$20 million to establish a Center for Middle East Studies, which will focus on the history, politics, economics, religions, cultures, and institutions of the entire Middle East from the Arab world and Israel, to Turkey and Iran. The Center's academic mission will be balanced between research and teaching, and providing the highest level of training for future generations of scholars. Scheduled to open in October 2004, the Center for Middle East Studies will be housed in the building formerly owned by the American Jewish Historical Society.

More News on Institutes and Programs

In November, the Board of Trustees approved two new master's degree programs. The **Master of Arts Degree in Coexistence and Conflict** is the first of its kind and is uniquely designed to give students a solid grounding in contemporary coexistence and conflict work theories. It also will equip students with the professional skills to design and implement successful conflict interventions.

The **Master of Arts Degree in Teaching** (Elementary) combines academic study at Brandeis with a nine-month internship in public elementary or Jewish day schools in the Boston area.

The **Women's Studies Program** celebrated its 25th anniversary at Brandeis with a thought-provoking conference, "Stirring Up Justice: Brandeis Women's Studies at 25." The conference honored Brandeis alumni who have made a significant difference or contribution to feminism. Notable Brandeis alumnae who participated included **Letty Cottin Pogrebin '59**, cofounder of *Ms.* magazine. The conference opened with dinner, and the video premier of *Brandeis Women's Studies: A 25-Year Journey*, produced by **Seth Bernstein '06**. **Annette Miller '58, M.F.A. '76**, performed excerpts from the letters of Fannie Brandeis Nagel, the older sister of Louis Brandeis.

For 55 years, the **Brandeis University National Women's Committee** has been fundraising for the University. Its book sales helped establish and grow our Libraries, which now hold more than one million volumes. **Nora Dorn**, a member of BUNWC only since 1997, has left a gift of \$1,000,000 to Brandeis.

Student News

Students' contributions to the life of this University are immeasurable. We have 15 new Roosevelt Fellows, upperclass peer mentors who guide first-year students academically and personally. They are: **Gila Ashtor '05** (Thornhill, Ontario, Canada), **Ashley Firestone '05** (East Setauket, New York), **Michelle Gaba '04** (Brooklyn, New York), **Abby Gondek '04** (Thousand Oaks, California), **Yoni Goodman '05** (Bronx, New York), **Gitanjali Harjani '04** (Mumbai, India), **Maharth Kapur '04** (New Delhi, India), **Conor Kilroy '04** (Amherst, Massachusetts), **Beverly Levine '05** (Brooklyn, New York), **Beth Linas '04** (Denver, Colorado), **Amna Mirza '04** (Karachi, Pakistan), **Alex Molayem '05** (Beverly Hills, California), **Naomi Orensten '04** (Ashland, Wisconsin), **Max Polonsky '04** (Cherry Hill, New Jersey), and **Michael Popper '05** (Riverside, Connecticut).

Brandeis students have developed a first-of-its-kind health Website designed especially for college women across the country. While at Brandeis as a distinguished Visiting Professor in Women's Studies, U.S. Assistant Surgeon General Dr. **Susan J. Blumenthal** developed the site with undergraduate students and **Shulamit Reinharz, Ph.D. '77**, Jacob S. Potofsky Professor of Sociology and director of the Women's Studies Research Center. Implementation of the site is a joint effort with Tim Hickey, professor of computer studies and Volen National Center for Complex Systems, and their students. The new Website will provide a portal to reliable information about a broad range of health issues, including nutrition, exercise, substance abuse prevention, body image, and mental and reproductive health.

This fall, students are finding that Brandeis food is healthier than ever. The new "Balance" food station in Usdan Cafeteria serves a core menu of chicken breast, salmon, beef kabobs, vegetables, and assorted whole grains. A "Balance" food station will open in Sherman Dining Hall in January. The changes came in response to the opinions voiced by the more than 500 students, faculty, and staff who participated in focus groups run by Aramark, the University's food services provider.

The **Brandeis Debate Team** hosted the American Parliamentary Debate Association (APDA) National Championship here last April. In early November Brandeis hosted the New England Invitational Debate Tournament. Sixty-eight teams from 32 colleges participated in the two-day event. To host the Championship, Brandeis beat out a number of prestigious schools like Smith and Johns Hopkins. From 1999 to 2002, the Brandeis Debate Teams placed in the top seven at the Nationals and garnered the North American Debate Parliamentary Championship in 2001.

Awards for Graduate Students

The list of awards, on campus and beyond, to our graduate students is far too lengthy to include here. Dozens have been recognized in recent months with Brandeis awards including Dissertation Year Fellowships, Outstanding Teaching Fellow Prizes, and Sachar Scholarships for Research Abroad. We have just learned that **Cara Delay**, a former Brandeis graduate student in comparative history, has won the American Conference for Irish Studies Adele Dalsimer Prize for Distinguished Dissertation for her doctoral dissertation "The Fire of Devotion: Catholicism, Conflict, and Community Life in Rural Ireland, 1850-1920," written with the guidance of **Eugene Black**, the Otilie Springer Professor of History.

The Campaign for Brandeis

Despite a climate of economic and international uncertainty, the Campaign for Brandeis has fared extremely well. At the close of the calendar year, we will have raised 71% of our \$470 million goal. Our friends and alumni have rallied to the campaign goals of creating endowments for scholarships, faculty chairs, and capital projects. In the process of reaching our goal, we have established new records for Brandeis generosity, especially for the construction of the new residence hall. We have raised nearly 60% of the \$3 million Kresge Foundation challenge thanks to our alumni. Their very strong showing represents a solid sense of "connection" and pride in the University. Also, since the average age of our total alumni body is only 41, we can hope that this positive trend in support will continue. And, with **Dan Elkaim's '81** formation of the first alumni committee (the Alumni National Campaign Committee), we can expect even greater success.

This semester we established the **Ray Ginger Endowed Professorship in History** through the generosity of **Bill '65 and Lucy Friedman**. Bill is among five Brandeis alumni to endow chairs during this campaign. Other academic chairs include the **Keyv and Hortense Kaiserman** Endowed Chair in the Humanities, the **Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer '69 and Joseph Neubauer** Chair in Democracy and Public Policy, the **Myra '64 and Robert Kraft** Chair in Arab Politics, and the **Barbara '54 and Malcolm Sherman** Directorship of Theater Studies. I hope that more alumni will follow in their footsteps. At this point, about 80% of our faculty chair goals have been secured.

My warm congratulations go to **Myra Kraft '64**, who was recently honored with the David Ben-Gurion Award for Distinguished Community Service. Other Brandeis Trustees in the news include **Jonathan Davis '75**, honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals on National Philanthropy Day as the outstanding individual philanthropist of the year.

Glen Langberg '82 is our recently elected Alumni Term Trustee to the Board.

Ronald Daniel, managing partner of McKinsey & Company, has also joined the Brandeis Board of Trustees. Daniel is a member of the seven-person Corporation and the Board of Overseers at Harvard University, serves as the treasurer of Harvard University and chairman of the Harvard Management Company, which manages the university's endowment. All of us at Brandeis look forward to working with Ron.

Bricks and Mortar

This fall, we opened the **Village**, a new \$21 million, 220-bed residence hall for upperclass undergraduates. Located just down the hill from the Slosberg Music Center, featuring suites with kitchenettes, the Village offers state-of-the-art college living and is a symbol of our commitment to enhancing undergraduate student life.

Construction is complete on the International Business School's new **Lemberg Academic Center**. Made possible by generous gifts of the Board of Overseers and Brandeis University friends, the Center will allow the International Business School to substantially increase academic offerings, faculty, and student enrollments in the coming years.

Irving Schneider of New York City has generously donated \$15 million to construct a new wing for The Heller School for Social Policy and Management that will nearly double its "footprint" and provide critically needed space for The Schneider Institute for Health Policy. The entire Brandeis community joins me in thanking the Schneider family for continuing their role in Heller history.

Alumni News

Brandeis alumni continue to achieve and distinguish themselves. **Adam Weinberg '77** has been named director of the Whitney Museum of American Art. **Tom Friedman '75** and **Judith Shapiro '63** were elected to the American Philosophical Society, America's oldest learned society.

Three Brandeis alumni received this year's Elliot Norton Awards honoring excellence in theater productions. **Laura Latrielle, M.F.A. '95**, won in the category "Outstanding Actress, Small Company" for her role of Evelyn in **Neil LaBute's** *The Shape of Things* at SpeakEasy Stage Company. **Annette Miller '58, M.F.A. '76**, won "Outstanding Actress, Solo Performance," for her role as Golda Meir in William Gibson's *Golda's Balcony* at Shakespeare & Company. And Mimi (**Mary C.) Huntington, M.F.A. '87**, artistic director of the Nora Theatre Company, won "Outstanding Production by a Small Resident Company" for staging Harold Pinter's play, *Betrayal*.

New Appointments

Adam Jaffe, former chair of the economics department and the Fred C. Hecht Professor in Economics, is the new dean of arts and sciences. Previously a senior staff economist for the President's Council of Economic Advisers, Jaffe's scholarly interests include the role of R&D and innovation in economic growth.

Lorna Miles Whalen joined the Brandeis community this October as senior vice president for communications. She comes to Brandeis from Stamats Communications, Inc., a leading higher education marketing and consulting firm, and will be spearheading an aggressive and coordinated marketing program for the University.

We welcome **Mari Fitzduff**, who arrived this fall to direct the new coexistence master's degree program offered under the auspices of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life. Fitzduff was the first person to teach conflict resolution at both of Northern Ireland's universities.

An expert on Islamic mysticism, scriptural reasoning and ethics, **Qamar-ul Huda** has been appointed adjunct assistant professor in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies. He will serve as mentor and advisor to our Muslim students, and will act as a resource for all who wish to gain a deeper understanding of Islam.

Scott Edmiston is head of Brandeis's new Office of the Arts. Edmiston will work with the fine arts, music, and theater arts departments, the Creative Writing Program, the Film Studies Program, and The Rose Art Museum to build new audiences for Brandeis's impressive cultural offerings. An award-winning theater director and artistic associate of Boston's Huntington Theater Company, Edmiston comes to Brandeis with 20 years experience in nonprofit arts organizations and universities.

Brian Meehan, one of the most successful Division III coaches in the country, is the new men's head basketball coach. During his seven years as head coach at Salem State College, he compiled an outstanding 160-39 record, including 87-10 in conference play. His .804 winning percentage is the highest among active Division III coaches with at least five years experience. Brian succeeds Chris Ford, who left Brandeis to return to the NBA as an assistant coach with the Philadelphia 76ers.

Athletics

Brandeis's student athletes had a superb fall season. The women's soccer team reached the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) semi-finals. Men's soccer earned a fifth seed in the ECAC. Six men and four women from Brandeis earned places on the All-University Athletic Association (UAA) teams. **Gretchen Chick '04** (Gardiner, Maine) and **Dan Crespín '05** (Scotia, New York) earned All-New England honors and competed in the NCAA Division III national championships. In March 2004, Brandeis will host the 60th annual NCAA National Collegiate men's and women's fencing championships. It will be the third time the Gosman Center will entertain the nation's top collegiate fencers.

Our teams are becoming stronger. To express my pride in the contribution made by our student athletes, they were hosted at a reception at the President's home.

Challenge and Tragedy

The challenges of leading a campus are enormous, sometimes overwhelming. This past semester, challenges came in the form of two racist incidents on our campus. One was a remark made in the student newspaper, *the Justice*, and the other in an anonymous flyer. What was striking in both instances was the gravity with which the entire community addressed the issues—in private and in public. We are committed to holding people responsible for their actions and to doing what is necessary to constantly teach mutual respect and understanding on the campus.

I must also share with you that our community has experienced three tragedies this semester. The death of Eliezer Schwartz '04 on November 16 in Gloucester, Massachusetts, brought a wave of sadness and grief. In mid-October, Mary I. Jagoda '05 died in the waters off Nantucket Sound during a kayaking excursion with a friend, Sarah Aronoff, a student at Franklin & Marshall College. In the spring, Reginald "Reggie" Poyau '04 drowned in southern Senegal during a weekend trip with his friends to a region south of the Gambia River. Students have gathered each time to honor and remember those we have lost. I have extended my deepest condolences to the students' families and friends. They will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.

In closing, I wish you safe and peaceful holidays among family and friends.

Sincerely,

Jehuda Reinharz

P.S. Thousands of 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 Website, which provides a wealth of information about the University.