



# Brandeis University

Jehuda Reinharz  
President

May 18, 2009

To Members of the Brandeis Community,

As the academic year draws to a close, there is good news about the University that I am pleased to share with you.

First of all, under the extraordinary leadership of Senior Vice President Jean Eddy and Dean Gil Villanueva and their team, we have had an extremely successful recruiting year. The class of 2013 is the most diverse in Brandeis history, and its academic quality measured in terms of SAT and rank in class is comparable to last year. Sixteen percent of the class is international and a further 24 percent represents members of underrepresented groups. This class truly reflects our mission of being a place for all. During their four years here, these students will have the best accommodations ever available to Brandeis students as a result of the new residence facilities that have been added in recent years.

Second, adhering to the principle I have reiterated many times not to change the tenure system, we have proceeded with promotions as usual. The Board of Trustees has approved the following promotions to associate and full professorship with tenure during the academic year 2008-2009:

**Promotion to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure:**

Professor Markus Baenziger, Fine Arts  
Professor Yu-Hui Chang, Music  
Professor Wendy Cadge, Sociology  
Professor Albion Lawrence, Physics  
Professor Janet McIntosh, Anthropology  
Professor Nidhiya Menon, Economics  
Professor Laura Miller, Sociology

**Promotion to the rank of Full Professor with tenure:**

Professor Jane Kamensky, History  
Professor Jané Kondev, Physics  
Professor Michael Randall, French and Comparative Literature  
Professor Laura Quinney, English and American Literature  
Professor Lawrence Wangh, Biology

**New Appointments to the rank of Full Professor with tenure:**

Professor Elizabeth Brainerd, Economics and Women's and Gender Studies  
Professor S. Ilan Troen, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies

In each case, these appointments illustrate Brandeis's continuing commitment to promote research and teaching. These faculty members are the future of Brandeis.

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The new state-of-the-art Carl J. Shapiro Science Center – the first building visitors see as they drive down South Street – has its first occupants. Many faculty members have moved in and several laboratories are operational. Students will begin using the classrooms and teaching labs in the fall. The first classes in biology and chemistry are scheduled for this summer. Two other building projects are proceeding on schedule. The new Carl and Ruth Shapiro Admissions Center will open this fall, while construction begins this week on the Mandel Center for the Humanities and the Mandel Humanities Quadrangle, which will open in the fall of 2010.

I am pleased to report that despite the difficult economic climate we are poised to exceed our fund-raising target for current budget use. We owe much thanks to Senior Vice President for Institutional Advancement Nancy Winship and her professional team, as well as to the many students who night after night participate in the phonathon. I will report the final results in my next letter. As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, our capital campaign has reached a total of \$840 million or 69 percent of our \$1.22 billion overall goal. Of that total, \$154.3 million is for endowed and current use scholarships and fellowships; another \$79.5 million supports endowed faculty chairs. We are now concentrating most of our efforts on raising money for more scholarships and fellowships, both endowed and for current use.

Finally, the Curriculum and Academic Restructuring Steering (CARS) Committee under the able leadership of Dean of Arts and Sciences Adam Jaffe has recommended a number of creative changes to the curriculum that will enable Brandeis to fulfill its mission of academic excellence within the constraints brought about by the recession and financial crisis. The challenge presented to the CARS Committee was to offer recommendations to streamline the Academy, eliminate unnecessary duplications of effort and enable the University to protect the strength and breadth of the academic program. In March, the Board of Trustees approved three initiatives designed to enhance the attractiveness of the Brandeis experience to current and prospective students. I want to describe each of them briefly, as they represent something new and exciting for Brandeis.

The first of these — the field of greatest interest to college applicants in the United States — is a Business major that has been developed by the faculty building on the existing Business minor. The aim has been to develop a curriculum consistent with the character, capabilities and vision of Brandeis and one that is distinctive to Brandeis. The program is firmly rooted in the liberal arts and encourages critical thinking and analysis. It is structured to provide opportunities for students to make important connections across disciplines. Required courses address the social context of business, and the program avoids purely vocational and professional training. The four essential goals of the program are to teach students fundamental frameworks and analytical concepts in a core set of business functions; to help students understand the social and global context of business; to allow students to integrate their business studies through internships and elective curricular options; and to enable students to deepen their expertise in an area of choice. The new Business major will be available starting in the fall semester 2010 and will be open from that time forward to any current students who are able to

complete its requirements in time for their graduation. This new initiative coincides with the inclusion of Brandeis's International Business School in a Top 15 Finance rating in the April edition of *Entrepreneur Magazine*, and *Princeton Review's* listing of IBS as outstanding in the 2009 edition of its "Best 296 Business Schools."

Also approved in March by the Board of Trustees was the new interdisciplinary Film and Visual Media Studies major. As I reported in my last letter in November, the Film Studies program, under the energetic direction of Professor Alice Kelikian (History), has built a strong following among students, bringing to campus many interesting films and accomplished actors, directors and producers.

Like the Business major, the Film and Visual Media Studies major was first established as a minor more than a decade ago. The program stresses interdisciplinary inquiry and multi-cultural exploration with particular strength in the area of non-Western film. The program is presented as a liberal arts field of scholarly inquiry, and no more than three courses in film production techniques may be offered for credit in the major. The program's primary goals are to provide students with an informed background in motion picture history and to develop in them a critical appreciation of the cultural meanings of film.

Also approved by the Board of Trustees in March was the new Justice Brandeis Semester, an initiative proposed by faculty to free students to pursue research, study abroad or other academic activities during one of their regular residency semesters and thereby accommodate a slight increase in the overall size of the undergraduate student body. The Justice Brandeis Semester can occur in the summer or in any fall or spring semester after a student's freshman year.

Each program must be intensive, experiential, socially or globally engaged, faculty mentored, peer connected, and result in tangible work product. Some programs already proposed include a Brandeis Summer Science Semester consisting of a two-week intensive group laboratory course in research methods, an eight-week laboratory research project mentored by individual faculty members, group meetings including journal clubs, lectures, career development talks, all culminating in a symposium/poster session; a Brandeis Summer Arts Festival consisting of a ten-week intensive creative project culminating in a Summer Arts Festival; a JBS in Anthropology consisting of a twelve-credit, three-course program in ethnographic or archaeological fieldwork; a Brandeis Immersive Summer Language Institute combining at least two semester courses in sequence, together with an additional course integrating academic study of culture and/or literature with an experiential component; and a Justice Brandeis Extended Summer Program in Computer Science consisting of an eight-week intensive two-course computer science program, followed by a full-time internship with a software company.

The CARS Committee has also proposed a number of measures that will facilitate the cooperation of faculty among and between programs, reduce unnecessary duplications of curricular effort, increase flexibility in the fulfillment of programmatic requirements so that the total number of courses that must be offered each year in order to mount a given major can be reduced, place limits on

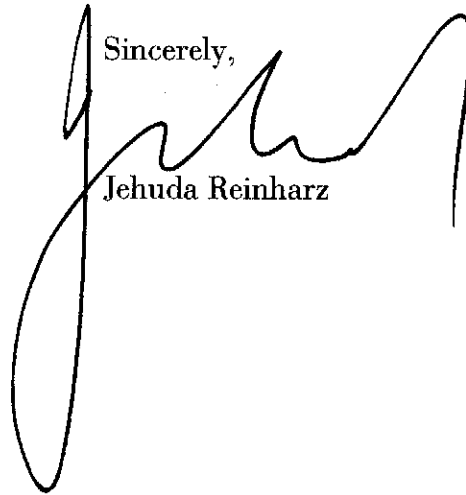
unusually low enrollment courses, and increase the number of different courses that each faculty member teaches in a rotation. These proposals and others that relate to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences have made it possible to achieve the savings that will result from a reduction in the overall size of the faculty without closing any programs or compromising academic excellence.

As the academic year drew to a close, we honored six distinguished individuals at Brandeis University's 58<sup>th</sup> commencement on Sunday, May 17. The main commencement address was delivered by Newark, N.J. Mayor Cory A. Booker, who was joined by Maestro James Conlon, music director of the Los Angeles Opera; mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne; Israel Gutman, the world's foremost scholar of and authority on the Holocaust; Indian environmentalist Rajendra K. Pachauri, who received the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with co-recipient Albert Gore; and Israeli entrepreneur and industrialist Stef Wertheimer, who has founded industrial parks in Israel with the goal of fostering economic growth and job creation to help achieve peace and stability in the region.

I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

Jehuda Reinharz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jehuda Reinharz'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.