Fall Fest 2015 Academic Presentation Series

Saturday, October 24

11:00AM - 11:50AM

Influences of Age and Culture on Memory

Angela Gutches, Professor of Psychology

In Olin-Sang 101

I’ll discuss my research on these topics, using a combination of behavioral and brain measures.

Engaging Difficult Languages at Brandeis

Irina Dubinina (Russian language program), Sabine von Mering (German language program), Hisae Fujiwara (Japanese language program), Jian Wei/Xiwen Lu (Chinese language program)

In Mandel G03

In this session you will have an opportunity to experience learning languages which are considered difficult for native speakers of English. We will give you a taste of what language learning at Brandeis is, show you what you can expect in our classrooms, which are based on performing in the language rather than learning about the language, and give you examples of how language influences the way we perceive the world. Very importantly, you will learn what we really mean when we say “difficult languages” and why this phrase may be a misnomer.

How to Become Immortal: Scroll 23 of Homer's Iliad

Maša Ćulumović, Professor of Classical Studies

In Golding 110

One of the passages in Homer’s Iliad that has for centuries attracted the attention of Classics enthusiasts around the world is the episode in Scroll 23, which describes athletic competitions taking place in honor of the recently deceased Greek warrior, Patroklos, a close companion of Achilles - the main hero of this ancient epic song. This presentation will consider the more general background of the performative and compositional contexts of the Iliad, while focusing on a close reading of a passage in order to illuminate some of the less widely known or considered aspects of this age-old literary masterpiece.

12:00PM - 12:50PM

Luncheon

In Mandel Atrium

1:00PM - 1:50PM

Brandeis MakerLab: Make, Break, Iterate

Hazal Uzunkaya

In Olin-Sang 101

At Brandeis MakerLab we encourage our students to come in and use our 3D printers, 3D scanners, Augmented reality headsets and embedded systems cabinet to bring their ideas to life. From 3D printed prostheses to drones and even a BioPrinter, we assist the members of Brandeis community when they have such projects, and in the mean time use tools in an innovative way to create something new. To learn more about 3D printers and meet our crazy scientists, check us out in Faber Mezzanine in the Library.

Climate Change and Our Children's Future

In Mandel G03
Sabine von Mering, Professor of German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures  
Even if the UN climate summit in Paris at the end of this year reaches an agreement to curb greenhouse gases dramatically over the coming decades, our children's lives will be affected by climate change. What should universities do about this? How do we best prepare our students for a very uncertain future that may not look anything like the past? What do our students need to know so they can become agents of change for a more sustainable future? What role should we as educators and parents play? A brief overview of what we know about climate change today will be followed by a description of recent initiatives here on campus and elsewhere in the world. Questions and discussion is encouraged!

2:00PM - 2:50PM  
A Window into Spiritual and Religious Life on Campus  
Rabbi Elyse Winick, Vaishali Gupta, Allison Cornelisse and Maryam Sharrieff  
Join us for an exploration of the Religious and Spiritual opportunities on campus and how the Multifaith Chaplaincy supports the university's social and educational missions.

Supermassive Black Holes and the Search for Gravitational Radiation  
David Roberts, Professor of Astrophysics  
I will describe recent work in my group that shows that pairs of supermassive black hole in the nuclei of galaxies may be rarer than previously supposed. Such pairs are thought to be the major source of low frequency gravitational waves, so the level of gravitational radiation in the Universe may be lower than previously thought.

3:00PM - 3:50PM  
ADHD: Illness or Illusion?  
Andrew Hart, Instructor within the HSSP Program and PhD Candidate at The Heller School  
Is ADHD a (real) disease or is it a symptom of something else? Regardless, what are we doing to assess and treat ADHD and are diagnostic and treatment approaches in the best interests of patients?

Digital Amati: Functional Geometry and the "Traité de Lutherie"  
Harry Mairson, Professor of Computer Science  
I’m going to describe some software I’ve built for understanding the structure of seventeenth-century string instruments, using historically justified principles of design. The software can be used to express executable, high-level geometric characterizations of instrument forms—a concise expression of what the luthier had, in his mind’s eye, that guided his skilled hand. Together with CT scans of renowned instruments, it can be used to build the workshop infrastructure for instrument making, and for making parts of an instrument. Finally, I’ll describe using these digital tools in a kind of computational art history, understanding the evolution of instrument design. I’ll give two examples: the link between the Stradivari ‘Cristiani’ violoncello (in the Museo Stradivariano in Cremona) and the ‘Castelbarco’ (at the Library of Congress), and a plausible reconstruction of Stradivari’s “forma B” violoncello.
Sunday, October 25

11:00AM - 11:50AM

**Study Abroad: Info for Students and Families**

Allyson Goose and Candace Matta, Office of Study Abroad

Is your student interested in studying abroad? Come hear more about the exciting opportunities Brandeis offers students to take classes, intern, do research and more in 65 different countries! Staff from the Office of Study Abroad will explain the kinds of credit students can earn, students’ scholarship opportunities and the study abroad application process. You’ll also hear from a study abroad returnee about why study abroad is a great way to enhance your academic credentials, prepare for a career and have a lot of fun.

**The Seduction of Eve: Why did she do it?**

Reuven Kimelman, Professor of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies

A literary study of Genesis 3: The Story of Adam and Eve?  
Is this history or parable?  
Is this the first sin or the original sin  
Who is to blame. Adam, Eve, or the serpent?

12:00PM - 12:50PM

**Luncheon**

Feldberg Lounge

1:00PM - 1:50PM

**Obsessing, Drinking, and Saving Face: Sex Differences in Regulating Emotions**

Ellen Wright, Professor of Psychology

Humans manage our emotions optimize positive feelings and to avoid pain, to be consistent with social conventions, to avoid the negative consequences of particular emotions, to protect others’ sense of wellbeing, and to protect the views we hold of ourselves. Professor Wright will discuss the evidence for sex differences in regulating and managing emotions, the origins of various mood management strategies, and evidence for how different styles of emotion regulation are protective or pose as risk factors for various difficulties.

**Brandeis at the Large Hadron Collider**

Jim Bensinger, Professor of Physics

In the ATLAS experiment at the LHC (Large Hadron Collider) we study the fundamental building blocks of the universe and their behavior. I will describe our current understanding of the nature and history of the Universe, how we study its building blocks, and how the newly discovered Higgs Boson fits into the overall picture we have about how the Universe works.