(IN)JUSTICE SYSTEM
Maheeb Rabbani pursues his passion for criminal justice reform

FINDING HER WAY
Lauren Lindman is building a promising career trajectory

KATZ’S CRADLE
Don Katz on the neuroscience of taste, and why Brandeis is a scientist’s paradise
Brandeis is a medium-sized private research university located in Waltham, Massachusetts. We’re an inclusive and deeply collaborative community of students and educators dedicated to providing a first-rate undergraduate education. We’re committed to a mindset of growth and discovery — both of self, and of the kind of knowledge that moves society forward.
EIGHT MUST-TRY MEALS ON MOODY STREET
(IN)justice System

Brandeis students bring essential education and community to individuals impacted by the prison system.
Zoom allows Maheeb Rabbani and Professor Kabrhel to meet with Partakers Executive Director Arthur Bembury to plan for the future of the Partakers Empowerment Program.

It was a high school current affairs course that first opened Maheeb Rabbani’s eyes to the many injustices of the American carceral system.

“I had no idea, prior to taking that class, the experiences of incarcerated people,” he says. “I didn’t know about a lot of the hardships that people face when emerging from prison.”

Rabbani, a double major in politics and international global studies with a minor in legal studies, has found a way to pursue his passion for criminal justice reform while also embracing the Brandeisian ethos of using one’s talents to improve the world. He works as a facilitator for the Brandeis Educational Justice Initiative (BEJI), an organization that connects Brandeis students with opportunities to provide educational services to incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals.

“Students here are very much involved in social justice organizations and activism work. That’s a huge emphasis for our community,” Rabbani says. “I find that really inspiring.”

BEJI works with nonprofit and state agency partners to deliver a range of programs to those impacted by the criminal justice system. Brandeis students are trained as tutors and facilitators, bringing knowledge, discourse, and the opportunity to connect to prisons, jails, prerelease centers, and communities throughout Massachusetts.

Rosalind Kabrhel, associate professor of the practice in legal studies at Brandeis, who co-founded BEJI in 2019, says she’s inspired by the refreshing perspective that Brandeis undergraduates bring to this work.

“They have this drive to be involved and make a difference,” she says. “It’s an idealism that things can be better, but also a sense of urgency to make it so. I wanted to harness that and apply it to the criminal justice context.”
Rabbani facilitates a civic engagement workshop for BEJI’s Partakers Empowerment Program (PEP), one of BEJI’s five core initiatives, offered in partnership with Massachusetts-based prison education nonprofit Partakers, Inc. This program delivers a 13-week educational workshop to formerly incarcerated individuals, covering topics that range from technology to health and wellness — all of them aimed at preparing individuals for life after prison.

But Rabbani says the value of BEJI goes beyond simply sharing knowledge. It’s also about shared experience, which is an important part of Kabrhel’s vision for the program.

“It’s not just us throwing information at them — it’s more of a discussion. We learn from them, and they learn from each other,” he says. “There’s also that sense of community, which is so, so important for this population. Our job is really to build a support system and be there for them if they need additional help.”

Big picture — empowered by the knowledge and experiences he’s gained through his work with BEJI, Rabbani plans to pursue a degree in law and continue fighting for the rights of individuals impacted by the carceral system. Eventually, he hopes to be part of a larger movement toward a new vision for the justice system as we know it — from prison to policing.

Reflecting on her goals for BEJI and the organization’s benefits to both Brandeis students and the communities it serves, Kabrhel stresses the importance of reciprocity and fostering connections between all her students.

“Give students an opportunity to lead, and they will wind up teaching each other and teaching you as much as you’re teaching them,” she says. “It’s empathy. It’s a desire to engage with people who have had very different life experiences and see their equal value as humans and the shared benefits that result from that engagement.”

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Cam-do Attitude

Cameron Johnson does it all.

Cameron Johnson is something of an adventurer. He likes to be busy and try new things — which is why at various points throughout his first year at Brandeis, he could be found on the campaign trail for class senator, doing flips into the foam pit with the Gymnastics Club, or hopping on the campus shuttle to go to downtown Boston and explore the city.

Among the many things he’s discovered in the first year of his collegiate experience, one thing stands out: Brandeis is home to a lot of other adventurers, all of whom feel free to be themselves.

“Everybody is genuine and quirky, and it all meshes well — you can learn something from every person that you meet,” says Johnson. “I’ve made really, really good friends that I could see myself being friends with for the rest of my life.”

He’s just as adventurous when it comes to his intellectual interests. Johnson is making good use of Brandeis’ flexible, supportive academic environment, crafting a unique educational experience centered around his passions for physics and architecture by way of the Independent Interdisciplinary Major (IIM) — a faculty-supported build-your-own major that Johnson calls one of the things that excited him most about Brandeis.

“Physics was something that just came to me — something that I understood and genuinely enjoyed learning,” he says. “I knew architecture was a passion of mine as well. There are so many disciplines to it. It’s not just building and designing buildings. It’s urban policy, and how architecture can affect cities.”

His fascination with the many facets of the built environment have led Johnson to all kinds of interesting places and experiences — including a real estate internship with Boston-based Hines Real Estate during the fall of his first year, where he acquired his real estate license on top of his course load. It’s also at the heart of his involvement with student government.

“What I realized is, first-years come in and have more suggestions than people who have been here a while,” says Johnson. “I want to advocate for beautifying the quad. Bring in flowers. Bring in picnic benches. Do a mural project.”
The Power of Proactivity
Carina Luo on connection, community, and making the best of strange circumstances.

Born and raised in Southern California, scientist and musician Carina Luo always wanted to attend college on the east coast. It was something about the climate, and the color, that first drew her eye. “California is golden. Massachusetts is green. I’ve always had warm memories here,” she says.

And although she arrived at Brandeis in the less-than-ideal circumstance of a global pandemic, Luo is nothing if not resourceful. Intent on forging connections with her new community, she came up with a simple and safe solution: a whiteboard on her dorm room door.

“I play the flute, and I practiced in my dorm room. People would write little notes, like, ‘Oh, it sounds so good!’” Luo remembers. “And I would sometimes write questions back, like, ‘Which dining hall is better?’ So people would comment. You find alternative ways to socialize.”

She’s being modest — Luo was awarded Brandeis’ prestigious Leonard Bernstein Fellowship, which provides extra training and performance opportunities to talented undergraduate musicians. It seems playing flute solos for her floormates didn’t hurt, because pandemic or not, those Brandeis connections weren’t all that hard to find.

“She’s being modest — Luo was awarded Brandeis’ prestigious Leonard Bernstein Fellowship, which provides extra training and performance opportunities to talented undergraduate musicians. It seems playing flute solos for her floormates didn’t hurt, because pandemic or not, those Brandeis connections weren’t all that hard to find.

“I’ve met people who support me on a personal level, in a way that I don’t think I would have gotten at a large school,” she says. “It’s a nice change.”

With that sense of belonging, Luo has flourished into a community leader, both in and out of the classroom. A chemistry major, she met more like-minded students in the Galaxy Program, which provides mentorship to STEM students from underrepresented groups. Realizing the value of approachable, responsive teacher assistants, she started tutoring in general chemistry and became an orientation leader.

She was also elected representative for the Community Emergency and Enhancement Fund, which provides funding to student-led initiatives. There, she hopes to create more positive change by giving students a platform to voice their vision.

Asked what she thinks about her success, one thing came to mind: persistence. “All of the things I’ve accomplished are because I actively reached out to people,” Luo says. “If you want something, you should pursue it — don’t wait for it to happen.”
Bulbul Chakraborty
ENID AND NATE ANCELL PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

ON HER WORK

“My research focuses on understanding the behavior of natural landscapes, made up of rocks, boulders, and gravel, whose collective behavior falls outside any established theoretical framework. These rocks and gravel resist small everyday forces, which build up large stresses that ultimately lead to movements on massive scales: avalanches and earthquakes.”

ON BRANDEIS

“What stands out most about Brandeis is the ability of students to interact with faculty and engage in cutting-edge research at all levels. They can knock on my door at any time, and enter a lab and be part of research from as early on as their sophomore or even first year.”

BULBUL CHAKRABORTY IS A CONDENSED MATTER THEORIST WHO IS INTERESTED IN SYSTEMS FAR FROM EQUILIBRIUM. THE OBJECTIVE OF HER RESEARCH IS TO CONSTRUCT THEORETICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR OF INDIVIDUAL ENTITIES THAT CAN PRODUCE AND/OR DISSIPATE ENERGY.
Bridging Backgrounds

Alec Gelman discusses diversity, leadership, and growth.

“One thing about Brandeisians — they feel incredibly strongly. About their beliefs, their clubs, and their friends,” says Alec Gelman.

Gelman is a double major in economics and business, and past president of the Brandeis chapter of Hillel — an organization dedicated to providing a space for Jewish life on college campuses. It was a role that gave him greater insight into backgrounds and experiences that were unfamiliar to him as he grew up in a modern Orthodox Jewish household.

“Hillel was a really good way not only to meet other people, but understand where they come from, why they believe what they believe, and how that might differ from what I believe. To accept and learn from them, and grow with them all the same,” Gelman reflects.

According to Gelman, there’s respect for all religious backgrounds on campus, and students often attend events outside their own denominations, where they’re welcomed with open arms. “We might not see eye to eye on the same things, but that doesn’t stop us from being friends and caring for each other,” he says.

In addition to providing a new appreciation for different ways of life, Gelman’s Hillel experience taught him about himself, too. Realizing he had a knack for managing groups, he became a community advisor, supporting students on his dorm floor to adapt to the college social environment and watching residents grow as they gained confidence.

Hillel also gave him a new way to think about his studies. Like religion at Brandeis, Gelman believes economics represents a way to bridge concepts cohesively. “It shows how the real world works. And a lot of concepts I learned in the classroom, I can see them happening in real life,” he says.

He plans to apply some of these lessons to a career in the video game industry. Engaging with the Brandeis alumni network helped Gelman learn more about the roles within the gaming world — and he scored a social marketing internship with 2K Games, a game publisher that hosts talented, global game development studios.

From exploring your beliefs to refining your direction, Gelman has one piece of advice for new students at Brandeis: “If something’s actually important to you, make time for it. Prioritize you.”
KATZ’S CRADLE: DON KATZ ON THE NEUROSCIENCE OF TASTE, AND WHAT MAKES BRANDEIS A SCIENTIST’S PARADISE
Katz’s research upends a long-standing theory of taste — namely, that there is a designated neuron within the brain that immediately processes every individual flavor.

In fact, the moment-to-moment processing of a taste, whether it’s familiar or entirely new, occurs within a group of neurons that evaluates the stimuli in three stages: acknowledging the stimuli, evaluating the stimuli, and deciding whether to ingest it.

This theory of neural processing sheds new light on the relationships among taste, vision, and scent. The appearance or smell of a given food impacts the way the brain arrives at its decision, which means that if any of those senses aren’t functioning properly, the brain has a hard time getting it right.

Katz references a psychological study conducted by a colleague: Take three colorless beverages and have a subject identify them by taste alone — orange, lemon, and grape. Easy enough. But add purple food coloring to the orange flavor, and the subject will taste grape — even after being told what she’s drinking is orange.

“Something you probably didn’t know [is] that your sense of taste is totally unreliable,” says Katz. “But the candy companies do know. Some of your favorite candies — candies you would swear come in a range of tastes — all taste the same. [Candy companies] know that your nose and eyes can make you think you’re tasting something that’s not there.”

“I consider myself super lucky,” says Don Katz, a behavioral neuroscientist and 20-year veteran of Brandeis’ Division of Science. “I’m surrounded by top-notch scientists [on the faculty] who are impacting the world of science. And yet they care about undergraduates and about teaching. That really does set this place apart.”

Science at Brandeis, he explains, isn’t all about prestige; it’s about the work, and a mindset of learning that goes both ways.

Katz’s work with mice and rats is emblematic of the interdisciplinary approach common among researchers at Brandeis, blending elements of psychology, biology, math, and physics to better understand the neuroscience of taste — and, more broadly, the interdependence of the senses as the brain’s primary agents of perception.

“We engage the animal in an exploration of what tastes good and what doesn’t, and we look at what causes that,” says Katz of the research. “In some cases, it’s experience; in some cases, it’s senses; in others, it’s evolutionarily conserved and important mechanisms.”

Katz uses a series of brain implants to observe the moment-to-moment neural processing taking place within the brain as an animal interacts with a certain stimulus. His findings are revolutionizing scientists’ understanding of the interplay between the brain and the senses, and they have immediate implications for the human mind as well.

“The job of your sensory systems isn’t to just record what’s out there. Your eye isn’t a camera. Your tongue isn’t a piece of litmus paper,” he says. “Your brain is like a detective. Every piece of evidence is imperfect and partial, and its job is to try to put it together in a way that makes the most sense.”

To summarize: Your brain may not be the supercomputer scientists once believed it was, but it is a superpowered sensory sleuth, doing its very best to help you perceive and understand the world. Food for thought.
“We think that innovation is not just technology, but application of technology. And that innovation is bringing together disparate ideas — that the future of neuroscience is in multidisciplinary work.”
Brandeis Debate (BADASS) on Inclusion and Excellence

No matter how you slice it, there's a lot to like about the Brandeis Academic Debate and Speech Society — better known as BADASS. We spoke with club president John Lowe to get his take on what sets the team apart.

CAN WE START WITH THE ACRONYM?

*Laughs* We have no idea where it comes from. Our team has existed since the '50s. Someone in the '80s probably thought it was funny. I do think it's at least somewhat reflective of the way we carry ourselves, though.

HOW DO YOU MEAN?

Most schools have tryouts, and that basically means you need to have done debate in high school. Brandeis is somewhat unique in that we don't have tryouts at all. We take anybody who has potential and make them as good as they can be, even without experience. Historically, we've been very successful.

PRETTY COOL THAT AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH CAN BE A BENEFIT.

It's quite helpful competitively. But I also think it's just a good thing to do. You should be allowed to join this activity that you're going to enjoy — even if you didn't happen to do it in high school!

TAKE US THROUGH YOUR BADASS JOURNEY.

I didn't have any experience in debate, public speaking, or anything even remotely similar. In high school, I focused on robotics! Very different. So I was very bad when I started. But this program gives you all the tools you need.

I used to be unable to speak in front of a class of 12 people. Now, I'm not nervous in front of a crowd of a couple hundred. There's a lot of shared experience and people in the same position you are. When the whole point is that someone is judging your public speaking, you get good at public speaking, you know?

ANY WORDS OF WISDOM FOR THE NEXT GENERATION?

Just stick around! Over time, the team trained me, I competed in more activities, and got to know more things and more people. It's something I have very much enjoyed. And hey, yes, you're going to lose when you first start. But two years later, you're going to win against top teams and programs — and it's going to feel really, really good. Sure, we weren't spectacular a few years ago, but now we're better. Considerably better. That's kind of badass, right?
Throwback Tribute: Leonard Bernstein’s Brandeisian Legacy

“This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before.”

That quote, from composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein, captures his zeal for life in the face of stark social and political realities. Bernstein, who joined Brandeis’ music department in 1951, believed that in creating and sharing beauty, artists have the power to tip the balance of the world toward peace and unity — just as musicians make symphonies through the intricate joining of disparate melodies.

Every April, Brandeis honors Bernstein’s contribution and legacy with the Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts, dedicated to the belief that “the art of an era is a reflection of the society in which it is produced, and through creative endeavors, the thoughts and expression which characterize each generation are revealed and transformed.” Events include musical and theatrical performances, family and children’s events, art exhibitions, and demonstrations.

At Brandeis, that process of revelation and transformation is a constant theme. As Bernstein said: “We cannot pretend to wisdom, but through performance we can provoke thought and free discussion; through discussing we can learn; and through learning we can rediscover our culture and ourselves.”
INTERESTED IN PURSUING A MASTER’S DEGREE? BRANDEIS OFFERS FIVE-YEAR DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF STUDY:

> Biotechnology
> Business Administration
> Business Analytics
> Computational Linguistics
> Computer Science
> Education: Teaching
> Global Health
> Hornstein: Jewish Professional Leadership
> International Economics and Finance
> Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
> Philosophy

/Q&A

All Business

Vicky Liu takes on representation and leadership roles in the finance sector.

TELL US ABOUT WHAT DREW YOU TO THE BRANDEIS BUSINESS PROGRAM.

I knew I was going to be a business or econ major. Overall, I really liked the setup of the business program. I found the courses very interesting, especially with the International Business School’s graduate program, where we can take graduate courses as undergrads. It’s a very welcoming and diverse community because we have students from all over the world. As an international student, I think Brandeis does a very good job to support us.

I also just love Boston, so part of the reason is location, too! Brandeis isn’t far from downtown, and there are shuttles (and a train stop!) to Waltham and Boston, so that’s pretty convenient.

WHAT ABOUT OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM?

I’m a pitch leader at TAMID, which is an undergraduate business club. We do valuations based on financial statements, analyze the companies and the industries, and put together investment memos and presentations. I joined the club the first semester of my first year, and then I was a pitch leader for three semesters. And starting next semester, I’m going to be the co-VP.

BUSINESS COURSES, BUSINESS CLUBS. ANY OTHER BUSINESS YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT?

Goldman Sachs had a program about the financial services industry. It was very helpful to know more about the different divisions in the investment banks and also in the financial services industry overall.

Then there’s Girls Who Invest, which is more technical. We have access to different modules online. I’ve learned many technical skills from that.

This summer I am working as a research assistant for Professor Scherbina. She is researching the gender differences of male and female asset managers in the United States. I help her collect data on categories such as education, number of children, etc. It’s very intriguing to learn more about an industry that I am interested in and explore the industry trends.

HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE AT BRANDEIS PREPARED YOU FOR ALL THIS?

Without Brandeis, I wouldn’t have a strong foundation of the business fundamentals. Brandeis has provided a great learning platform, and I would like to utilize what I have learned through hands-on experience. I look forward to working on exciting deals and improving my own domain of expertise after Brandeis.
The Doctor Is In

Brandeis sociologist and education activist
Dr. Derron Wallace talks about a global perspective and educational equity in America.

**How Did Your Upbringing Impact Your Decision to Pursue A Career in Education?**

I spent my formative years in Jamaica before moving to the Bronx midway through high school. I’ve lived, interned, and worked full time in countries as diverse as Rwanda, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala, and England. Educational inequality loomed large in all these countries. Disparities in educational opportunities by virtue of gender, geography, race, and social class shaped the trajectories of hundreds of young people I met around the world. I grew more and more convinced that I had to effect change.

**How Has That International Perspective Informed Your Current Work at Brandeis?**

[My international] experiences have afforded me a deep appreciation for difference and motivate me to support Brandeisians in acknowledging and appreciating difference — different languages, cultures, perspectives, epistemologies, histories, and identities — as an educational resource.

**What Are Some of the Foremost Challenges Facing American Education?**

At the heart of my research, I ask: To what extent are historically marginalized groups disempowered in public schools, in spite of political pronouncements that suggest otherwise? Why do we fail to marshal the political will to redistribute resources equitably [and] consistently, so that educational practices in America better reflect the widely held aspirations for the nation? To effectively answer these questions and address the complexities of the U.S. educational system, a broad set of analytical tools is needed. These are portable skills and strategies students acquire through a Brandeis education.

**How Would You Describe the Academic and Community Culture at Brandeis?**

The academic community at Brandeis is intentionally dynamic, creative, and collegial. Close relationships between students and faculty make the university a very special community. Students are studious and kind, earnest and compassionate, collaborative and reflective. Some are quiet and quirky but often eager to transform the communities around them.

Every year I have a student from my neighborhood in the Bronx, or from Jamaica, or from another region of the world I love, enrolled in my class. Such connections enrich mentorship and remind me to regularly recognize that students have much to teach me, too.
SPARKTank is a business pitch competition that celebrates Brandeisians who leverage their passion — and the university’s entrepreneurial spirit — to dream up ideas that might change the world. Students, faculty, and staff compete as equals for funding and advisory support to make those dreams a reality. Here are SPARKTank startups that have people talking.

**SNAPCAP**

Inspired by her older sister with Down Syndrome, undergraduate Rebecka Sokoloff created SNAPCAP (The Special Needs and Arthritic Practical Swim Cap) after she saw how swim caps affected her sister’s ability to perform at the Special Olympics. The design consists of an elastic band epoxied to the interior of the cap. On either side are metal rings which can be used to pull the cap over the head without tearing the cap itself, making it easy for individuals with dexterity issues to place, position, maintain, and remove the swim cap.

**MOBILE MEMORY**

The Mobile Memory team seeks to develop the first cost-effective screening tool to detect early signs of Alzheimer’s disease with an AI algorithm that utilizes natural language processing. Undergraduates Daniel Hariyanto and Jessica Lee collaborated with graduate students to develop a product that will provide a novel, inexpensive screening tool to identify signs before the disease fully manifests. App data and insights will help lead to an early diagnosis. Upon follow-up treatment, patients can delay or even prevent the onset of Alzheimer’s, improving patient outcomes and reducing health care costs.

**SKILLSIDE**

Many skilled freelancers struggle to find clients, schedule their hours, and process payments. Furthermore, many families who need reliable service providers are at a loss for where to look. Undergraduates Raphael Flicker, Emma Greszes, and Rebecca Sokol created Skillside, an online marketplace that connects freelancers with clients and connects families with vetted providers.
Blue Goes Green: How Brandeis Embraces Sustainability

Going green means taking action. Here’s how we’re walking the walk on campus sustainability.

- Won a 2021 AASHE Campus Sustainability Award for our sustainable dining initiatives
- Prioritized energy efficiency and sustainability by installing renewable energy systems, including geothermal heating and cooling at Skyline Residence Hall, solar PV on three campus rooftops, and solar thermal on the Charles River Apartments
- Signed the Cool Food Pledge, a worldwide effort to slash food-related greenhouse gas emissions by 25%
- Increased our compost collection and made composting available campuswide
- Launched the student-led Brandeis Sustainability Ambassadors Program
- Created two pollinator meadows, which are home to 40 insect species not found elsewhere on campus
- Introduced a climate change investment internship in the Office of Investment Management
- Provided financial support for student sustainability projects through the Brandeis Sustainability Fund
- Launched the campuswide Brandeis Year of Climate Action for 2022-23
Finding Her Way

Lauren Lindman navigates life on campus and beyond the classroom.

Standout undergraduate researcher Lauren Lindman talks about her first experiences at Brandeis — and how she built a great start into a promising career trajectory.

ON HER FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH THE BRANDEIS COMMUNITY
While touring colleges, Lauren and her mom developed a strategy for testing the community: mom would drop Lauren off at a busy spot on campus and tell her to find her way back to the admissions office.

“I was freaking out, but it was actually a really great exercise, because I had to ask people to help guide me and interact with them and kind of get a feel of the school that way,” she remembers.

Brandeis students passed the test with flying colors. “I was absolutely blown away by how friendly and welcoming everybody was,” Lindman says.

ON CREATING HER OWN OPPORTUNITIES
Once on campus, Lauren leaned into her psychology studies and participated in research labs. She reached out to a professor whose work on psychopathy in juveniles interested her. Although the lab was full, she was persistent, and eventually landed the role of research assistant. She works alongside graduate students to sort through data and test each others’ reliability.

“[Being] alongside all of these experienced researchers can be intimidating at times, but it’s also a really special place to be,” Lindman says. “It feels like I’m doing something, as opposed to just learning about it.”

ON HOW MAKING USE OF RESOURCES CAN GO A LONG WAY
In seeking her next internships, Lindman tried a different strategy. With the help of the Hiatt Career Center, she found two subsequent roles — a research internship at the Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research, studying the effects of COVID-19 on people’s lives, and a social work internship at the Child Mind Institute, a camp for children with autism that provides clinical training to counselors.

“Our Hiatt Career Center has a lot of resources to help students get involved in internships. I used their Handshake website, which employers use to put out job listings for Brandeis students specifically,” Lindman says.

ON WHAT’S NEXT
Lindman will utilize the methods she’s learned from the Brandeis research lab and her internships to conduct her own independent research project about the measures of psychopathy. Excited about the process, she says, “That’s a starting point for a career in psychology.”

INTERESTED IN PURSUITING RESEARCH? THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS OFFICE CAN CONNECT YOU WITH OPPORTUNITIES IN EVERY DISCIPLINE. OUR 30+ RESEARCH CENTERS INCLUDE:

- Brandeis Materials Research Science and Engineering Center
- Crown Center for Middle East Studies
- Gordon Center for American Public Policy
- Institute for Economic and Racial Equity
- Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies
- Perlmutter Institute for Global Business Leadership
- Rosenstiel Basic Medical Sciences Research Center
- Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry
- Women’s Studies Research Center
Leading the Charge

Alison Hagani embarks on a legislative journey.

Brandeis has a history of advocating for human rights and liberties. It’s why Alison Hagani chose to attend. And now that she’s a part of the Brandeis community, she’s forging her own path toward justice.

Hailing from New Haven, Connecticut, Hagani double majors in sociology and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies while minoring in legal studies. It’s a multifaceted course of study she says has a wide range of interpretations and applications.

“I don’t think you really come across two people who are using the major for the same thing. It’s a very diversely motivated community,” Hagani says.

In her case, “motivated” might be an understatement. On campus, Hagani uplifts fellow students at Brandeis with the Prevention, Advocacy & Resource Center (PARC), which provides trained peer advocacy and empowerment to those impacted by violence.

She’s also been a driving force in state politics — helping to pass bills in Massachusetts and Connecticut that protect college students impacted by sexual violence. Following then-Education Secretary Betsy Devos’ Title IX rules that gave only limited protections to victims, Hagani also founded the Sexual Violence Student Advisory Committee at Brandeis.

One of the things she’s learned from PARC is the importance of self-care when advocating for intense causes. She’s learned to set aside time away from her phone — whether it’s to walk her dog, play soccer with her sister, or (her favorite) practice kickball.

Hagani plans to continue pursuing policy and legal change, but she’s still not sure whether she wants to be the person providing legal protections, or advocating for more.

“Watching the bill pass in Connecticut, and watching students at Brandeis advocate for policy, I’ve really understood how important experience-based policy and protections are,” she says. “So wherever I go and whatever I do, I hope that I’m helping broaden the pipeline for advocacy, and whose voices are in the room.”
NO MATTER WHAT YOUR GAME IS, YOU CAN PLAY IT AT BRANDEIS. IN ADDITION TO OUR 22 CLUB TEAMS AND 25 INTRAMURAL LEAGUES, VARSITY PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

> Men’s Baseball
> Women’s Softball
> Women’s Volleyball
> Men’s and Women’s Basketball
> Men’s and Women’s Cross Country
> Men’s and Women’s Fencing
> Men’s and Women’s Soccer
> Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving
> Men’s and Women’s Tennis
> Men’s and Women’s Track and Field

Striking a Balance
Aneesh Avancha on self-improvement, discipline, and camaraderie.

Aneesh Avancha first learned the importance of discipline from his hardworking parents. His father completed a master’s degree in mechanical engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology but always wanted to study in the U.S.

“Having the blessing of being able to study at an American university as a result of my mother and father’s hard work, that means a lot to me,” Avancha said.

Balancing baseball with a double major in neuroscience and biology, Avancha believes his parents’ lessons are crucial to his success.

Walking into one of his first classes at Brandeis, Avancha noticed how driven the other students were and felt inspired by their willingness to learn and improve. Matching that enthusiasm and remembering the lessons of his parents, he developed a mindset that enabled him to make the most of every class, every practice, and every day.

Envisioning a positive outcome is one of Avancha’s biggest keys to success. He also knows that it’s okay to fail — as long as he learns from his mistakes.

“You can pout about it, throw your helmet, or you can think, ‘Okay, what pitch did he strike me out on? What was the situation?’ Because you’re going to have a second and third at-bat, just like you’re going to have a second and third exam,” he says.

On the field, in the classroom, and beyond, his positive mindset is working. While helping guide his team to succeed in back-to-back seasons, Avancha also applies his pre-med studies to real-life circumstances as a unit coordinator for the Tufts Medical Center Emergency Department. And as a medical scribe, he strives to understand how emergency physicians reach a diagnosis.

Ever on the lookout for new ways to make an impact in his community, Avancha became a Roosevelt Fellow Peer Advisor, passing on words of wisdom and helping other students feel comfortable, capable, and connected — like his teammates on the baseball team did during his first year at Brandeis. “Everybody’s trying to make each other better,” Avancha says. “That kind of environment makes you want to improve.”
LENDING a hand
We’ve all seen gloom and doom dystopias, where futuristic, sci-fi-esque concepts go wrong. As technology advances — often faster than we can keep up with it — you might wonder: What good could come of a society empowered to create on a whim, and seemingly out of thin air? Evidently, a lot.
“Technology can be used altruistically,” says Tassone. “I hope our success will inspire others to be creative and use technology to give back to the community.”

Just ask the Brandeis Prosthesis Club (BPC), a student-run organization with a quintessentially Brandeisian mission: Use the resources you’ve got to better the lives of those in need.

BPC designs, prints, and assembles custom-fit, low-cost prosthetic hands in the Brandeis MakerLab — an inventor’s paradise of 3D printers, virtual reality headsets, and other high-tech gear — and works with the nonprofit network e-NABLE to distribute them to children in need.

“Making the connection between technology and helping people is what really drew me in,” says BPC’s Alison Tassone of getting involved with the club. “It was eye-opening, and it feels great to work together to build a device that could make a difference in someone’s life.”

BPC’s work has enormous potential impact. Insurance will often cover the cost of an initial prosthesis, which typically costs from $5,000 to $10,000, but is less likely to pay for replacements as children grow. But with BPC’s plastic models priced at only $30 and $50 each, waiting until adulthood for a functional prosthesis may become a thing of the past.

“Technology can be used altruistically,” says Tassone. “I hope our success will inspire others to be creative and use technology to give back to the community.”

BPC has big plans for the future, too. It’s looking to expand into true neuro-sensor and motor-based bionics, all while staying true to its low-cost roots. And it will continue its weekly volunteer work with the Junior Brandeis Achievers (JBA) after-school program, teaching Waltham elementary school students the basics of prosthetic assembly and nurturing an understanding of the power of technology to do good in the world.

Does it get more utopian than that?
Since 2014, the Brandeis MakerLab has served as the hub of cutting-edge technological learning and creation on campus. Free and open to any member of the Brandeis community, it offers weekly trainings and workshops to help you become a certified Maker in Residence — opening the doors to the full suite of tools, including digital fabrication, digitalization and 3D scanning, embedded systems, and virtual and augmented reality.
EIGHT MUST-TRY MEALS ON MOODY STREET
No bones about it. Moody Street in Waltham is a foodie’s paradise.

From upper-crust Cuban, to authentic Pho, to mouthwatering weekend brunch, there’s a culinary treasure for every palate — all just down the street from Brandeis. Here are a few of our favorites:

**I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM**
Lizzy’s Ice Cream // Must try: a scoop of Charles River Crunch

**FAMILY DINNER FOR A VISIT FROM THE ‘RENTS**
Tempo // Must try: Pan-seared Scottish salmon

**LATE MORNING (OK, EARLY AFTERNOON) WEEKEND BRUNCH**
In a Pickle // Must try: Pancakes. (Just trust us.)

**SUPER-FANCY DATE NIGHT**
Solea // Must try: Paella, beef tenderloin, churros

**FAST DELIVERY FOR FLAVOR EMERGENCIES**
NY Pie // Must try: Ventagio pizza

**MELT-IN-YOUR-MOUTH SANDWICHES**
Gustazo Cuban Cuisine // Must try: Vaca frita with black bean soup

**OVER-THE-TOP THAI TAKEOUT**
Tree Top Thai Cuisine // Must try: Salmon teriyaki or tofu miracle
*This Brandeis favorite is located on Prospect Street.*

**A BUDGET-FRIENDLY, PHO-FORWARD FEAST**
Pho #1 // Must try: Pho ga with scallion pancakes
“I think what we’re seeing in this moment is how important ethical leadership is. The system needs healthy disruption. Students owning their voice and their power — that’s how you strengthen a democracy. That’s how you move a culture forward, a community forward, a nation and our world forward.”

– SAM VAGHAR ’08
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MILLENNIUM CAMPUS NETWORK
LIFE AFTER BRANDEIS: FIVE BRANDEISIANS LIVING THE DREAM (AND IMPROVING THE WORLD)

ADAM CHEYER ’88: FOUNDER OF SIRI, INC. AND CO-FOUNDER OF VIV LABS

Arriving at Brandeis as a new undergraduate, Adam Cheyer ’88 thought he’d seen it all when it came to computer science.

Then he took a logic programming course with Professor Tim Hickey. “It literally blew my mind every day,” Cheyer says. “It seemed like magic.”

That magic has made a profound impact on Cheyer’s life. Since graduation, he has founded four different tech companies — including Siri, Inc., the team behind that helpful robot assistant programmed into more than half a billion Apple devices. And with his past venture, Viv Labs, he set his sights on perfecting the virtual assistant.

WORDS OF WISDOM

“When I entered Brandeis, I didn’t have it all figured out — how to get work done, how to be organized, and how to really be a great student. Over time, I learned. And I got good at it. I launched two companies and was a founding member of a third, all at the same time. People asked, ‘How did you juggle all this work?’ I said, ‘Well, I believe that you can do more than you think you can.’ I learned that at Brandeis.”

OHAD ELHELO ’16, MA’17: FOUNDER, OUR GENERATION SPEAKS (OGS)

Israeli Ohad Elhelo ’16, MA’17, found in Brandeis a student community deeply engaged in productive dialogue around the long-standing conflict of his homeland. Inspired by that open discourse and by the support of Brandeis’ professors and administrators, Elhelo founded OGS — a fellowship and startup incubator that works in partnership with the Heller School for Social Policy and Management to connect young leaders from Israel and Palestine through entrepreneurship and trust-building. His work has gained national attention, as he was selected for Forbes magazine’s “30 Under 30” list, which recognizes business visionaries who are younger than 30.

WORDS OF WISDOM

“Leaders who have been in office for many years are navigating the future based on assumptions they’ve developed over decades. Many times, those assumptions are that there are many reasons to be afraid, [but] not many reasons to be optimistic.”
“My generation speaks a different language. When I speak to Israelis and Palestinians my age, no one ever imagines lives full of conflict and violence. ... We understand there are tremendous challenges ahead in order for us to live happy lives. We also understand that this is possible in a way that I think older generations do not anymore.”

LIANE HYPOLITE ’10: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, CAL POLY POMONA

When Liane Hypolite ’10 and her family moved from Boston to the suburb of Stoughton, Massachusetts, during high school, she noticed that something was amiss. Not with Stoughton, mind you, or with her family — but with the entire American system of education. “That [educational] disparity over [such a] short distance was a big red flag for me,” she says. Informed by her coursework and by insights gained through work at the Intercultural Center and as a senior admissions interviewer, Hypolite learned more about education inequity in America. She put that newfound knowledge into action after graduation, serving as dean of college and career advising at Codman Academy, an innovative charter school in Boston’s Dorchester neighborhood.

Today, she has served as co-chair of Brandeis’ Alumni of Color Network and is an assistant professor, teaching leadership skills to EdD students committed to social justice and equity. Her goals: embracing new approaches to improve college persistence, retention, and graduation, and fostering racial and economic integration in America’s colleges.

WORDS OF WISDOM

“[Brandeis] was a beautiful space in which to cultivate my own identity and be connected with all different types of people. ... There was a spectrum of perspective[s] that I found really valuable. I was impressed by the thoughtful debate and discussion — not just in the classroom, but around campus and in the residence halls. It was about learning as much as we could to make an impact in the world.”

JOSH KANTOR ’94: ORGANIST, BOSTON RED SOX

Josh Kantor ’94 has always been a music man. But he wasn’t always an organist — and he never dreamed he’d land the holy grail of gigs for musicians who also happen to be fanatical baseball fans. “For someone who loves baseball and playing organ music ... this is the dream job,” he says. “I’m very lucky, and I don’t take that for granted.”

Kantor spent his time at Brandeis exploring a variety of performance settings — most notably as an accompanist for improv theater group False Advertising. He says that experience, in particular, has served him well in his profession by teaching him to think on his feet and bring spontaneity to his music.

WORDS OF WISDOM

“I found [Brandeis] to be a very supportive, active, creative community. Dabbling in different things gave me a certain versatility. ... If the thing you’re looking for isn’t right in front of you, take the initiative. Make it happen. Good things happen for people who have the courage to initiate that first step.”

GENEVIEVE OLIVEIRA ’15: PROGRAM MANAGER, STARTUP ECOSYSTEM, GOOGLE

“College years shape who you become,” says Genevieve Oliveira ’15. In her time at Brandeis, Oliveira took advantage of opportunities to become a leader through her work as the Waltham Group coordinator and Alumni Reunion coordinator, to name a few — and these experiences made her stand out when interviewing at Google.

As a Wien Scholar from Brazil, Oliveira appreciated being part of a program that truly cares about students and provides intercultural dialogue, something that has served her well when working with partners in her native Brazil. She found that the Brandeis community had a “mutual responsibility for each other; people want to help each other.” One of her most successful professional accomplishments was turning one of Google Cloud’s biggest competitors in Brazil into a partner — very Brandeisian, indeed.

WORDS OF WISDOM

“Brandeis is a safe place to make mistakes, put yourself out there, and try something that scares you. There is always something new and exciting that is within your reach. You have to immerse yourself in the community and stretch yourself out of your comfort zone to get the most out of it.”
Majors and Minors

We offer 44 majors and 51 minors here at Brandeis.

Brandeis is a place to pursue your passions — or discover new ones. Through interdisciplinary courses, you will be exposed to new perspectives and knowledge while also gaining breadth and depth of knowledge that will prepare you for life after college. Our flexible curriculum provides the opportunity to pursue two majors or minors, often in completely different academic fields of study. Additionally, pre-professional advising programs can help you prepare for careers in medicine, business, law, and education.

**MAJORS**
- African and African American Studies
- American Studies
- Anthropology
- Applied Mathematics
- Art History
- Biochemistry
- Biological Physics
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Classical Studies
- Comparative Literature and Culture
- Computer Science
- Creative Writing
- East Asian Studies
- Economics
- Education Studies
- English
- Environmental Studies
- European Cultural Studies
- Film, Television and Interactive Media
- French and Francophone Studies
- German Studies
- Health: Science, Society, and Policy
- Hispanic Studies
- History
- Independent Interdisciplinary Major
- International and Global Studies
- Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
- Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies
- Linguistics
- Mathematics
- Music
- Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
- Neuroscience
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Russian Studies
- Sociology
- Studio Art
- Theater Arts
- Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

**MINORS**
- African and African American Studies
- Anthropology
- Arabic Language, Literature and Culture
- Architectural Studies
- Art History
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies
- Business
- Chemistry
- Classical Studies
- Climate Justice, Science, and Policy
- Comparative Literature and Culture
- Computer Science
- Creative Writing
- Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation
- East Asian Studies
- Economics
- Education
- Education Studies
- English
- Environmental Studies
- Film, Television and Interactive Media
- French and Francophone Studies
- German Studies
- Health: Science, Society, and Policy
- Hebrew Language, Literature and Culture
- Hispanic Studies
- History
- History of Ideas
- International and Global Studies
- Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
- Italian Studies
Journalism  
Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies  
Legal Studies  
Linguistics  
Mathematics  
Medieval and Renaissance Studies  
Music  
Near Eastern and Judaic Studies  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Politics  
Psychology  
Religious Studies  
Russian Studies  
Sexuality and Queer Studies  
South Asian Studies  
Studio Art  
Theater Arts  
Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Yiddish and East European Jewish Culture
Apply to Brandeis.

We seek students from all backgrounds and walks of life who want to make the most of their college experience.

If you’re intellectually curious, interested in broadening your horizons, and committed to social justice, then you’ll fit right in at Brandeis.

THE COMMON APPLICATION
Brandeis accepts the Common Application and offers Early Decision I, Early Decision II, and Regular Decision application rounds.

FOR APPLICATION DEADLINES, PLEASE VISIT BRANDEIS.EDU/DEADLINES.

TEST-OPTIONAL POLICY
Brandeis does not require the SAT or ACT. We believe that offering greater flexibility in the admissions materials requirements will allow applicants to provide a better representation of their academic capabilities. When applying to Brandeis, students can indicate on the Common Application if they would like their SAT or ACT scores considered in the review of their application. All applicants will be considered for merit scholarships, regardless of their choice to submit test scores.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT BRANDEIS.EDU/ADMISSIONS/APPLYING.

INTERVIEWS
An optional interview is a way for students to add a personal touch to their application. Offered on campus and virtually, interviews are available to high school seniors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT BRANDEIS.EDU/ADMISSIONS/INTERVIEWS.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS
As a high-achieving student, you may be looking for a college that will support you in accomplishing your goals. As one of the top research universities in the country, Brandeis offers our undergraduates access to unparalleled academic opportunities that are supported by world-renowned faculty.

As part of our application process, all students will be thoroughly considered for merit aid and, with a few exceptions, will not be required to submit any additional materials to support their candidacy.

Brandeis meets 100% of calculated financial need of its students with a combination of need-based grant, loan, and work awards. Applicants must submit the FAFSA and CSS Profile to be eligible for need-based financial aid.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR NEED-BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, PLEASE VISIT BRANDEIS.EDU/SFS.