TRII OF LIFE
Jonathan Goldman and Victoria St. Jean take a stand on immigration rights

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

THE POWER OF PROACTIVITY: Carina Luo on connection, community and making the best of strange circumstances

BRANDEIS DEBATE CLUB CONTINUES BEING BADASS

LIFE AFTER BRANDEIS: Five Brandeisians living the dream (and improving the world)
BRANDEIS STUDENTS TAKE A STAND ON IMMIGRATION RIGHTS

AT FRIENDSHIP PARK, THE ONLY FEDERALLY ESTABLISHED BINATIONAL MEETING PLACE ALONG THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER, FAMILIES SEPARATED BY IMMIGRATION LAWS GATHER ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE TO SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER ON THE WEEKENDS.

SELECTION FROM PHOTO ESSAY BY GRISELDA SAN MARTIN
Jonathan Goldman and Victoria St. Jean help a client through paperwork in their Waltham office.

The handbook that holds the keys to a new life in America isn’t exactly light reading material.

One of TRII’s greatest successes: turning dense legal code into comprehensible, interactive citizenship courses for those of us who are not legal scholars.
“To a certain extent, it’s arbitrary — the experience of being born somewhere,” says Jonathan Goldman. “And that arbitrariness shouldn’t determine how the rest of our lives go.”

Goldman, a double major in politics and philosophy and triple minor in legal studies, economics and social policy, is co-founder of The Right to Immigration Institute (TRII) — a nonprofit organization that trains and certifies undergraduates to represent non-citizens in local immigration court. He is remarkably poised for someone with so many responsibilities on his plate.

His TRII co-founder, Victoria St. Jean, is no less accomplished. She’s a history and politics double major, social policy minor, history department undergraduate representative and research assistant for the Sillerman Center for Advancement of Philanthropy. She shares Goldman’s passion for immigration justice.

“My biggest heartbreak is when you have someone who’s been [in the U.S.] for 20 years, did everything by the book, [is] working, doing well for themselves,” says St. Jean, “and there’s no path to citizenship for them.”

Goldman and St. Jean founded TRII with the help of legal studies professor Douglas Smith, and they are the group’s first two Department of Justice-accredited representatives. Between the two of them, they’re working more than 50 cases, a process that can involve everything from language translation, to assisting with paperwork, to attending hearings. They’ve also developed a training curriculum and enrolled 20 more undergraduates in the program, leaving TRII primed to ensure that no one who seeks their services will face the daunting immigration process alone.

For the people they serve, TRII is hitting its stride not a moment too soon. Political realities have anxieties on the rise, even among green card holders.

“I was talking to a Waltham food provider [who] has seen a 20% decrease in people showing up,” says St. Jean. “She said to me, ‘I know there are not 20% [fewer] people who just suddenly don’t need food anymore.’ People are afraid.”

All the more reason to step up their game, the pair says.

“Everyone needs to line up. We need to make sure we really fight,” says Goldman. “We’re here as an ally. We’re here to help. And for them, when we help someone, it’s like, ‘Thank god, I can stop hiding. I can truly call this place home, and no one can deny me that reality.’”
Kofi’s Corner

Two languages, a double major, multiple minors — Kofi Owusu-Koranteng has big plans to make a difference on a global scale.

Born in Washington, D.C., Kofi Owusu-Koranteng began his education early, when he relocated to Ghana as a young child to live with his aunt and grandmother.

“My parents wanted me to get a sense of our culture, our morals, our dialect,” he says of the move. “I think it’s essential, understanding origins. It’s shaped how I view things, how I do things and how I carry myself.”

Owusu-Koranteng says his time in Ghana gave him focus, independence and discipline — traits that have served him well since returning to the States for high school.

A first-generation college student, a double major in business and international and global studies, and a double minor in economics and East Asian studies, it’s safe to say Owusu-Koranteng takes the pursuit of knowledge seriously. And he credits the Brandeis community with helping him find his direction.

“This is a place where students know what they want to do and are really passionate about things,” he says. “I developed the same attitude.”

Just as his perspective is global, so are Owusu-Koranteng’s ambitions. After spending his junior year abroad at the London School of Economics, he also hopes to attend graduate school in Beijing before taking his talents to the international stage as a diplomat, ambassador or business liaison.

But it’s not all work and no play for Owusu-Koranteng. When he’s not studying, volunteering with the local Boys and Girls Club or helping other aspiring first-generation college students navigate the application process, Owusu-Koranteng is watching basketball, playing the drums with Fafali, a Ghanaian performance group, or — you guessed it — reading.

“I’m a really reflective person,” he says. “I’m willing to do whatever it takes to become more knowledgeable, get more involved in community [and] build as much as I can for Brandeis because this place does so much for me.”
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, her solution was simple and safe: 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.

“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.”
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 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 evaluate 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 19-year veteran of the Brandeis science department. “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 Club Continues Being Badass

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 Ravi Simon to get his take on what sets the team apart.

CAN WE START WITH THE ACRONYM?

(laughs) I’m not sure where it came from, to be honest. Brandeis Debate has been around since the ’60s [and] BADASS is absolutely how we see ourselves. We’ve got spunk. There’s a lot of passion on this team.

IT SEEMS TO BE WORKING OUT WELL.

Definitely. We’ve finished in the top 10 pretty consistently over the last decade. Brandeis [may not] have the social capital of some of these behemoth societies like Oxford and Cambridge … but the people on our team are really dedicated. [They are] ready to commit and work hard.

HOW DO YOU STAY COMPETITIVE?

We pride ourselves on being super inclusive. Lots of programs have tryouts and cuts and a notion of debate as an activity that is exclusive. Debate helps develop social and professional skills, so we create an environment where people want to learn and get better — we’re accepting and encouraging even when we fail. … People feel like they find a home on this team.

ANY BOLD PREDICTIONS FOR THE YEARS AHEAD?

We’re really confident. Thanks to the commitment of everyone on the team, we’re in a position now to do maybe even better than we’ve done recently.
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
> Computational Linguistics
> Computer Science
> Education: Teaching
> Global Health
> Hornstein: Jewish Professional Leadership
> International Business
> Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
> Near Eastern and Judaic Studies & Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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.
Spark It Up:
Three Amazing Innovations from SPARKTank 2021

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.

Prioritized energy efficiency and sustainability by building Skyline Residence Hall with geothermal heating and cooling, making it the greenest building on campus.

Installed solar PV on three campus rooftops and solar thermal on the Charles River Apartments.

Joined the Cool Food Program, a worldwide effort to slash food-related greenhouse gas emissions by 25%.

More than quadrupled our campus-wide composting efforts in the last four years.

Launched the new student-led Brandeis Sustainability Ambassadors Program.

Expanded our campus pollinator meadow and planted another in front of the Rose Art Museum.

Introduced a climate change investment internship in the office of investment management.

Provided financial support for students to undertake projects that improve Brandeis’ environmental sustainability efforts through the Brandeis Sustainability Fund.

Began planning for the campus-wide 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 Kline Institute, 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.”

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- 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 social justice and social policy as well as 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 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.”

IF YOU’RE LOOKING TO CENTER SOCIAL JUSTICE IN YOUR BRANDEIS EXPERIENCE, LOOK NO FURTHER.

Here are just a few of the organizations and programs dedicated to community service and activism, on and beyond campus:

> Advocates for Community Transformation (ACT) Program
> Brandeis Educational Justice Initiative
> Deis Impact Festival of Social Justice
> International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life
> Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice
> Social Justice and Social Policy Program
NO MATTER WHAT YOUR GAME IS, YOU CAN PLAY IT AT BRANDEIS. IN ADDITION TO OUR 19 CLUB TEAMS AND 29 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 Tennis
> Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving
> 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 hard-working parents. His father completed a master's 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.

“I have had mistakes and trials and errors throughout my undergraduate career that I can [use to] help other students,” Avancha says. “Everybody’s trying to make each other better. 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 prostheses, 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 mouth-watering weekend brunch, there’s a culinary treasure for every palate — all just down the street from Brandeis. Here are a few of our favorites:

**THE “TREAT-YOURSELF-TO-LUNCH” LUNCH**
Molti on Moody // Must try: Fried scamorza cheese sandwich with housemade truffle chips

**FAMILY DINNER FOR A VISIT FROM THE ‘RENTS**
Tempo // Must try: Cashew-encrusted halibut

**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: Genovese 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
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 AT CAL POLY POMONA

When Liane Hypolite ’10 and her family moved from Boston to the suburb of Stoughton, Mass., 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 is co-chair of Brandeis’ Alumni of Color Network and 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 dorms. 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: TERRITORY AND PROGRAM MANAGER, GOOGLE CLOUD

“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 a 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 breath 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
European Cultural 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.

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION DEADLINES

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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. Students may submit a paper written for a high school class in lieu of test scores. Our long-standing test-optional policy is consistent with recommendations from the National Association for College Admission Counseling and from the College Board on use of standardized tests.

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.
Fellowships

Our fellowship programs offer opportunities for students to pursue their interests in specific academic areas while providing personalized attention from key faculty leaders.

LEONARD BERNSTEIN FELLOWSHIP
This fellowship, which encompasses a highly selective instrumental chamber music program, provides a select number of accomplished instrumentalists and vocalists the benefits of private lessons, additional performance opportunities and up to a $20,500 renewable scholarship.

HUMANITIES FELLOWSHIP
Awarded to a select group of the most promising admitted students with an interest in the humanities, Humanities Fellowships provide an annual scholarship of up to $20,500 as well as a small, one-time stipend. Fellows take part in an intensive seminar, working directly with humanities faculty.

QBREC FELLOWSHIP
The Quantitative Biology Research Community (QBReC) is an interdisciplinary undergraduate community that promotes cross-departmental collaboration among students and faculty. Fellows will receive an annual scholarship of up to $20,500, take part in an intensive fall seminar and conduct an in-depth research project in one of six participating labs, all within their first year on campus.

For more information about fellowships and other scholarships, visit brandeis.edu/admissions/fellowships.

Come Visit!

The best way to get to know Brandeis is to see it for yourself.

We offer tours and information sessions Monday-Friday and select weekends throughout the year and hold open-house programs for prospective students in the fall.

We also offer virtual information sessions and tours for students who can’t come to campus.

We are here to help throughout your college search. Whether you’d like to connect with a current student or speak with your admissions counselor about the application process, we encourage you to reach out if we can help in any way.

SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT AT BRANDEIS.EDU/ADMISSIONS/VISITING.

CONTACT
Brandeis University
Office of Admissions
415 South Street
Waltham, MA 02453-2728

781-736-3500
admissions@brandeis.edu
brandeis.edu/admissions

Brandeis University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual’s race; color; ancestry; religious creed; gender identity and expression; national or ethnic origin; sex; sexual orientation; age; genetic information; disability; Vietnam-era veteran, qualified special, disabled veteran, or other eligible veteran status; or any other category protected by law.