



MUSE

The official newsletter of the Humanities Division
Brandeis University



Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for the Humanities Building
(photo credit: Jessica Tanny, Office of Communications)

a message from the Head of the Division

My warmest summer greetings to you all on behalf of the Division of the Humanities! I want to begin by recognizing that the COVID-19 crisis has created profound difficulties for all of us in the Brandeis community, and I have been so impressed and proud as each and every one of you rose up to grapple with the problems you faced as individuals, in your families, and both on and off campus in your communities. Like many other institutions, Brandeis now faces serious challenges to our mission, as well as the challenges of our employees and other stakeholders.

I know, because I have heard it loud and clear from many of you, that our current situation has resulted in significant stress and insecurity. I can only offer my heartfelt thanks, especially to the Humanities Council, for showing such flexibility as you all considered the needs of everyone under these current circumstances.

I can tell you that over 45 academic associations, several in the Humanities, joined together in a statement (authored by the American Sociological Association) offering important considerations for institutions of higher education regarding temporary adjustments to their review and reappointment processes for tenure line and contingent faculty. Also, many of these same academic associations have made strong statements expressing plans for initiatives to stop systemic racism and support the reinvigorated Black Lives Matter movement. Right on our campus many departments and programs at Brandeis have also posted similar expressions of support. These are all positive signs that we are working together, and that some very real and tangible good will indeed come from these difficult times.

I am very aware of the visible impact the pandemic has had and is having on our research and teaching and the unquantifiable burdens for students (undergraduate and graduate), faculty, and staff

alike. These, of course, include new responsibilities for childcare and other familial needs; new issues for physical and mental health; new questions of financial security; and new concerns for the future. We will get through this together.

I am comforted by the words of one of my favorite Roman poets, Virgil. In his *Aeneid*, Book 1, line 203, Virgil's mythic hero, Aeneas, rallies his battered and ship-wrecked crew of Trojans, who are fleeing their defeated and burning city of Troy, with these words of encouragement:

Forsan et haec olim meminisse iuvabit.

"Perhaps one day, it will be a pleasure to remember even these things (as in these very tough times)."

We've all just lived through a very tough spring semester and more tough times are no doubt on the way, but many good things have and will also still come out of it all. The amazing and spectacular accomplishments of our students are but one of them. Congratulations to all of you, and it is my pleasure to remember you all here with a list of the prizes and awards given from within the Division of the Humanities.

With all best wishes for a restful and productive summer,

Ann Olga Koloski-Ostrow
Professor of Classical Studies
Keyy and Hortense Kaiserman Endowed Chair in the Humanities
Head of the Division of the Humanities

Prizes and Awards in the Humanities

- **Allen Grossman Award for Outstanding Honors Thesis**
Esther C. Bley, English Department
- **American Poets Honorary Prize**
Cayenn Rose Landau, Creative Writing Program
- **Andrew Grossbardt '72 Memorial Poetry Prize**
Linfei Yang, Creative Writing Program
- **Andrew Grossbardt '72 Memorial Prize for Best Poem Published in a Brandeis Literary Journal**
Nicolas Claude Leger, Creative Writing Program
- **Andrew Grossbardt '72 Memorial Prize for Senior Thesis in Fiction**
Tafara Panashe Gava, Creative Writing Program
- **Anna S. Aronson Memorial Award**
Yvette Jane Sei, French and Francophone Studies Program
- **Bernard H. Herman '08 Endowed Prize in Creative Writing**
Kevin Matsumura Costa, Creative Writing Program

- **Bernard H. Herman '08 Endowed Prize in Creative Writing**
Tafara Panashe Gava, Creative Writing Program
- **Dafna Zamarripa-Gesundheit Fiction Award (Fiction, Laurel Moon)**
Violet Augusta Rose Fearon, Creative Writing Program
- **Dafna Zamarripa-Gesundheit Memorial Prize for a Senior Thesis**
Abigail Eve Berkower, Creative Writing Program
- **Daria Donnelly Memorial Prize for Outstanding English Essay**
Prudence Jillian Ross, English Department
- **Doris Brewer Cohen Award in the Humanities**
Sonia Maria Pavel, Philosophy Department
- **Dorothy Blumenfeld Moyer Memorial Award**
Evan A. Robins, Russian Studies Program
- **Dr. Eberhard Frey Prize for excellence in German Studies**
Rosemary O'Keefe-Hoeck, German Studies Program
- **Dr. Eberhard Frey Prize for excellence in Russian Studies**
Evan A. Robins, Russian Studies Program
- **East Asian Studies Outstanding Student Award**
Nancy Thao Nguyen Tran, East Asian Studies Program
- **Eli and Mollie Goodstein Prize in Hebrew**
Erin Orel Chambers, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
Yuchen Tan, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
- **Eli D. and Mollie Goodstein Prize in Spanish**
Allison Paige Donahue, Hispanic Studies Program
Domingo Antonio Fortuna Jr., Hispanic Studies Program
- **Esther Goldman Prize for Excellence in Classical Art and Archaeology and/or Ancient History**
Jacob Christian Diaz, Classical Studies Department
- **Ezra Z. Shapiro Endowed Family Prize**
Talia Sydney Goodman, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
- **Fall 2019 Jane's Travel Grants**
Carlos Guillermo Caballero Ferreira, Latin American and Latino Studies
Kathryn Mary Dix, Latin American and Latino Studies
Abigail Phyllis Goodman Miranker, Latin American and Latino Studies
Giselle Rosalba Santillana Hernandez, Latin American and Latino Studies

- **Henrietta and David Chassler Prize for an outstanding junior in NEJS**
Ariella Rachel Gentin, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
- **J.V. Cunningham Award for Excellence in College Writing: Foreign Languages**
Ruby Ravgiala Carlon, Hispanic Studies Program
- **Morris Homonoff Prize in Yiddish**
Shoshana Molly Finkel, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
Gabriel Isaac Freiman, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
- **Murray Sachs Prize for Outstanding Work and Dedication in French and Francophone Studies**
Rachel Charlotte Stutman, French and Francophone Studies Program
- **Nahum and Anne Glatzer Endowed Prize in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies**
Eric James Harvey, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
Benjamin Michael Victor Steiner, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
- **Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Prize in Arabic for excellence in Arabic**
Xaveria Noelle Mayerhofer, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
- **Philosophy Faculty Prize**
Sonia Maria Pavel, Philosophy Department
Emma Joan Farrell, Philosophy Department
- **Ramon Feliciano Poetry Prize**
Haley Rose Urdang Brown, Creative Writing Program
- **Renee B. Lang Prize in Literature**
Nyomi D. White, English Department
- **Rose and Joseph Weissman Prize in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies**
Liat C. Fischer, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
- **Samuel and Jennie Raucher Prize**
Nicole Leah Zador, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
- **Spring 2020 Jane's Essay Prize**
Ruby Ravgiala Carlon, Latin American and Latino Studies
- **Spring 2020 Jane's Photo Prize**
Ruby Ravgiala Carlon, Latin American and Latino Studies
- **Spring 2020 Jane's Travel Grant**
Alejandra Tinoco Bonilla, Latin American and Latino Studies
- **Yakas Senior Thesis Award**
Nicole Leah Zador, Creative Writing Program