



Brandeis

2024-2025

Impact Report

Division of Student Affairs

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Our History

Brandeis was established in 1948 by the American Jewish community at a time when Jews and other ethnic and racial minorities, and women, faced discrimination in higher education. Our founders created a nonsectarian research university that welcomed talented faculty and students of all backgrounds and beliefs. Brandeis focused on undergraduate education, while building a pioneering research enterprise.



From the VPSA

Dear Campus Community,

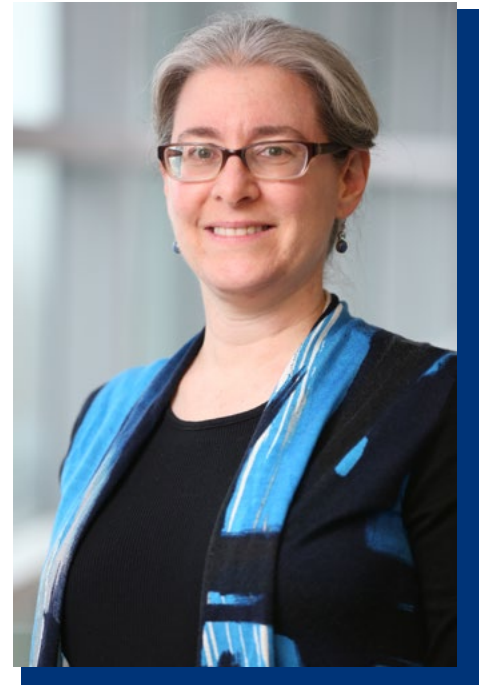
I am incredibly proud of the Division of Student Affairs team, as I reflect on our work to promote and enrich student success, sense of belonging, and holistic well-being over the past year. This annual report highlights our commitment to fostering a vibrant and supportive campus environment, and is a testament to our dedication to students.

I often remark that the student affairs team engages with students on their worst and best days. Today's student body is quite different from even a handful of years ago. Beyond traditional concerns students often have about academics, friendships, and time management, current students also feel like they are carrying the weight of the impact of the pandemic, national political discord, and world conflicts. This stress shows up in student affairs spaces in diverse ways and is visible in the increase of care team cases, counseling appointments, and crisis interventions.

Students are also seeking to change the world, and are determining who they will become as individuals, community members, and professionals. Their exploration shows up in diverse ways and is visible in student affairs spaces as students find community, compete on teams, join student organizations, celebrate at community-wide events, and explore career fields. As we assess and address increasing student needs, the 14 departments within Student Affairs continue to evolve, collaborate and reorganize our work to best support students.

As we look to the year ahead, we are committed to building a community that fosters joy and a sense of belonging, building a culture of evidence through administration of national benchmarking tools such as the National College Health Assessment (NCHA), and engaging in harm-reduction efforts through a four-year partnership with the JED Foundation. The coming year is an exciting one. We will watch the new residence hall rise, and partner with our colleagues to make President Levine's vision a reality as, "Brandeis students do not simply prepare for their first job after college; they learn and acquire skills to lead with purpose and clarity over a lifetime."

In gratitude,



Andrea Dine

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Student Affairs Departments

- › Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation
- › Center for Spiritual Life
- › Community Living
- › Counseling Center
- › Dean of Students
- › Graduate Affairs
- › Health and Wellness Promotion
- › Health Center
- › Hiatt Career Center
- › Hillel
- › Orientation and First Year Experience
- › Prevention, Advocacy, and Resource Center
- › Student Engagement
- › Student Rights and Community Standards
- › Vice President of Student Affairs



Gabrielle Daley '26

Major: Health: Science, Society and Policy

Her Story:

Gabrielle is a dedicated member of the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), and has played a key role in amplifying student voices and promoting health equity on campus. This year, Gabrielle represented Brandeis at a national student affairs conference as a participant in the student roundtable discussion, sharing valuable perspectives on improving access to healthcare services for underrepresented student populations. She uses her community building skills and creativity to support the Health Center's outreach efforts—particularly through her contributions to social media campaigns and graphic design work for vaccine clinic promotions. Gabrielle also serves as a Community Advisor, is an active member of the Campus Activities Board, and performs with the Platinum Step Team.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mission & Vision



BRANDEIS
UNIVERSITY

Mission Statement

The Division of Student Affairs provides programs, services and resources that contribute to the overall educational mission, build community, provide support and create a welcoming, vibrant Brandeis experience for our graduate and undergraduate students.

The division is committed to the following guiding principles:

- Creating community and belonging
- Holistic well-being (physical, spiritual, and mental wellness)
- Fostering growth, success, and resilience

Vision Statement

Student Affairs will be a prominent division fostering transformative experiences that empower our students to become responsible, engaged, global citizens with the skills, values, and tenacity needed to repair the world.



Most of the things
worth doing in the
world had been declared
impossible before they were
done.



- Louis D. Brandeis



Najla Khan '25

Major: Health: Science, Society & Policy and
Biology

Her Story:

Najla served as President of the Muslim Student Association (MSA) from 2023-25 and as a Peer Engagement Coordinator during her senior year. Najla offered a welcoming face in the Center for Spiritual Life, creating an environment where Muslim and non-Muslim students and staff were warmly invited to participate in MSA events throughout the year. In her dual roles, Najla spearheaded an interfaith discussion and through her leadership and attention to detail, supported MSA efforts to provide catered Community Iftars through Ramadan, and broaden those experiences to other students. Najla also served as a Roosevelt Fellow and a Hiatt Advisor.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Divisional Goals

- Maintain, create and implement evidence-based programs, services and resources that promote positive change in students' wellness knowledge, skills and behaviors with a focus on the emotional, physical, spiritual and occupational dimensions of wellness.
- Provide a vibrant student experience that supports overall student development, opportunities for connections, learning, support, leadership and success.
- Create an inclusive environment that supports graduate student belonging, connection and success in both academic and co-curricular experiences.
- Advocate for strategic investment in human resources and the university's physical plant to provide quality programs, facilities, activities and services for students.
- Incorporate holistic student community building into our work, supporting the larger university goals of student retention and support. Actively welcome differences and identities, honor the integrity of different faith traditions, and remove physical and other barriers to student success.

In pursuing these goals, Student Affairs is committed to:

- Establishing and maintaining meaningful relationships and collaborations with faculty, staff, students, community partners, and other stakeholders.
- Recruiting, recognizing, and retaining a student affairs team who serve as campus leaders in student support and success.
- Supporting professional development for staff as they aspire to become leaders in their fields.



Divisional Accomplishments

Holistic Health and Wellness

- Health and Wellness Promotion (HAWP) administered the biennial National College Health Assessment (NCHA) in October 2024 with a 25% overall response rate (double the national average). The responses provided a better understanding of belonging and mental health, comparing Brandeis to the national reference group and looking at longitudinal trends.
- Departments within Student Affairs, including the Counseling Center, Dean of Students Office (including Care Team), Spiritual Life, and the Prevention, Advocacy, and Resource Center (PARC), worked collaboratively to provide a high level of university response to students dealing with socio-political stressors, bias, and interpersonal violence.
- The Dean of Students Office introduced **The Red Folder**, an online resource guide for students, faculty, and staff to recognize, respond to, and report students in distress.
- The Counseling Center led QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Gatekeeper Suicide Education Trainings for 139 students, staff, and faculty this academic year. They also received a grant from The Ortus Foundation to support a four-year partnership with the JED Foundation, advancing campus-wide suicide prevention and mental health promotion efforts.
- PARC updated their peer student support model to better utilize resources and create a more impactful experience for students. The team combined Violence Prevention Educators and Peer Advocates into one cohesive team of Confidential Peer Educators (CPEs).
- The Health Center made several improvements based on student clinical needs. Improvements included a reclining phlebotomy chair, emergency eyewash stations, and implementing the use of the Carnation Ambulatory Monitor (Bardy Patch) for real time monitoring of cardiac issues.



Wesley Wei '25

Major: Business and Economics

His Story:

Wesley is an international student who served as an orientation leader from summer 2023-2025. He also served as an inaugural First Year Ambassador and as a Core planning team member, planning the midyear orientation program. No matter the role, Wesley is always willing to help and is a reliable team player. Throughout the year, he could be seen staffing "First Thursdays" events, working at Admitted Student Days, or participating in a number of student clubs including Quadball, the Taiwanese Students Association, and the Brandeis Investment Club.



Divisional Accomplishments

Holistic Health and Wellness (By the Numbers)

4,292

Total appointments at the Health Center

537

Total care cases (an 18% decrease*)

60

Percentage of care cases initiated by faculty or staff at Brandeis



6,114

Appointments at the Counseling Center (a 7% increase*)

25%

of the overall student population completed the National College Health Assessment survey (double the national average)

39

Number of Navigating Health and Safety sections (HWL 1)

317

Student appointments for PARC's advocacy services (a 91% increase*)

**from the 2023-2024 academic year*



Divisional Accomplishments

Student Experience

- Nine departments within Student Affairs (out of 14 total) offered skill building opportunities in areas such as leadership, teamwork, collaboration, problem solving, and communication through formalized training for student leaders this year.
- Orientation and First Year Experience supported the implementation of a new, interactive Onboarding Checklist in Workday and a new First Year Experience Website. These initiatives streamlined onboarding information for over 900 incoming students and their families.
- Students are more engaged in the career experience from matriculation to graduation with 50% of the Class of 2025 engaging with the Hiatt Career Center in their first year. Also, 97% of the Class of 2024 reported they are employed, in graduate school, or engaged in other meaningful activities within six months of graduation.
- The Department of Student Engagement (DSE) continued “First Thursday” programs and also created the new SCC@Nite programming series in spring 2025 with support from the President’s Office. Between the two, DSE hosted 31 large scale programs that impacted 4,183 attendees.



Bronwyn Rothman-Hall '25

Major: Media, Culture, and Communication

Her Story:

Bronwyn was a member of the Brandeis Fencing Team, serving as captain from 2023-2025, and was a three-time Academic All-UAA selection. She balanced her time as a student athlete with a variety of student roles on campus. Bronwyn held numerous roles in Athletics including Play-by-Play Commentator, Front Desk and Event Staff, and could be found many mornings and weekends lifeguarding at the pool. In recognition of her academic and athletic achievements, Bronwyn won two student-athlete awards as a senior; the Linsey Fellowship Award and an Athletic Director's award.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Divisional Accomplishments

Student Experience (Continued)

- The Department of Community Living administered the Brandeis Residential Experience Survey for the first time since 2019 and achieved a 70% response rate (1,699 residential students). The survey yielded valuable quantitative and qualitative data to inform future improvements and new residence hall planning.
- Orientation and First Year Experience supported a larger transfer student orientation for 90 students in August 2025 including a transfer specific welcome, programming, and a “Treats for Transfers” event with Academic Services.
- The team in Student Rights and Community Standards (SRCS) served on a campus-wide committee to review best practices and improve Artificial Intelligence (AI) guidance, training, and resources for students.
- The Hiatt Career Center launched the *Big Interview* AI-Powered Practice tool campus-wide, allowing students to improve their interviewing skills through interactive, online tools. This year, 16% of students utilized the tool and as a result, saw a 49% increase in their interviewing skills.



Spencer Lee '25

Major: Business and Economics

His Story:

Spencer joined PARC during his sophomore year after participating in their trainings as a student-athlete. Although new to violence prevention work, Spencer's goal was to make PARC's programming more relatable and accessible for students who didn't see themselves reflected in traditional prevention spaces. Spencer developed into a confident facilitator, presenting to 400+ high school students at the Cambridge School of Weston for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. He revitalized PARC's social media, adding energy and creativity to engage the broader campus community. Spencer also volunteered with Big Brothers, Big Sisters and served as a tennis coach for kids of all ages.



Divisional Accomplishments

Student Experience (By the Numbers)

22,317

Total student attendance at major programs and events run by the Department of Student Engagement (a 13% increase from last year and a 105% increase from FY'23)



6,203

Participation opportunities for students between varsity athletics, club sports, intramurals, and fitness classes



486

Programs offered by Community Living (a 30% increase*)

3,641

Individual students attended a Student Engagement program or event throughout the year (a 21% increase*)

70

Events Spiritual Life collaborated on with 25 campus partners (a 40% increase*)

22

Programs run by Orientation and First Year Experience (a 38% increase*)

427

Waltham Group volunteers (an 11% increase*)

430

Events hosted by Community Engagement (a 95% increase*)

2,760

Total student attendance at Shabbat dinners

598

Student conduct cases (a 37% increase*)

12

All-America honors earned by student-athletes



**from the 2023-2024 academic year*



Brandeis

DIVISION OF
STUDENT AFFAIRS

Divisional Accomplishments

Graduate Students

- Graduate Affairs significantly expanded their online orientation offerings for incoming students offering 11 mini-courses from June through August. They also hosted an interactive, online question and answer session for six of the topics with 189 graduate students attending.
- The Graduate Student Center was relocated from Kutz Hall to Gerstenzang in winter 2025.
- The Graduate Leave of Absence (LOA) process was reviewed and revised as part of a larger LOA review making it easier and more clear for students who want to go out on or return from leave.
- The Counseling Center expanded their Community Therapy Program to five strategic locations on campus including the Heller School and International Business School, increasing their focus on serving graduate students.
- The Graduate Engagement Committee, comprised of representatives from all of the graduate schools, held the second annual Graduate Student Appreciation Week in spring 2025.
- Community Living converted 567 South Street into an apartment-style residence for graduate students and sold out for fall 2025.



By The Numbers

8,045 Visitors to the Graduate Housing website (a 14% increase*)

160
Students attended the annual Intercultural Dinner hosted by Graduate Affairs

26
"Wednesday Breakfasts" held for graduate students throughout the year

147
Graduate students who attended in-person orientation

500 Total number of online orientation modules completed by graduate students prior to enrollment

**from the 2023-2024 academic year*



Rajesh Mahavadi '25

Major: MBA in International Business, Strategy and Innovation & Data Analytics Concentration

His Story:

Rajesh served as a member of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) Executive Board as the VP for Programming and External Relations. He worked tirelessly to help plan events for fellow graduate students including the Intercultural Dinner, a Halloween Stein Night, a week of Valentine's Day activities, and the annual end of year GSA party. Rajesh, who brings his unique personality to everything he does, was also president of the Marketing Club, Senator for the Business School, and worked as an IT Help Desk Technician.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Divisional Accomplishments

Resource Management

- Athletics made several facility upgrades this year including the installation of automated security turnstiles and the refurbishment of the Spivi Cycle Room in the Gosman Athletic Center.
- The Department of Student Engagement completed the second phase of improvements in the Shapiro Campus Center including moving the Game Room from Lower Usdan to the Campus Center and expanding individual seating areas throughout the building with the addition of privacy booths on the second floor.
- Spiritual Life completed infrastructure improvements including modernized card swipe access and a refreshed Gluck Lobby with new lighting and paint, creating a brighter, more inviting environment.

By The Numbers

441

Total student visits to the Brandeis Food Pantry

529

Student employment opportunities within the Division of Student Affairs

266,000

Dollars raised from 1,021 donors on Athletics Giving Day (a 121% increase*)

920

Reservation requests processed by Student Engagement for spaces in the Shapiro Campus Center (a 13% increase*)

27

Percent increase in revenue by the Counseling Center*

13

Percent increase in revenue by the Health Center*

10

Percentage of student care cases that required a minimum of 2-hours per case, some upwards of 15 hours per case

441

Van reservations managed by Student Engagement (a 24% increase*)

**from the 2023-2024 academic year*



Abygail Francis '26

Major: Biochemistry and Politics

Her Story:

Abygail is the current President of the Waltham Group, served as the Community & Social Justice Coordinator, and led the Community Connections service club that focuses on one time volunteer opportunities. She has a deep understanding of the power of community-building and the need for meaningful connections and is driven to create spaces for underrepresented communities in the Greater Boston Area. Abygail also serves as the president of the Students of the Caribbean Association, interns for a legal firm, is a laboratory assistant, and has served as a media intern for the Office of the Prime Minister of Jamaica HOPE Program.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Divisional Accomplishments

Resource Management *(Continued)*

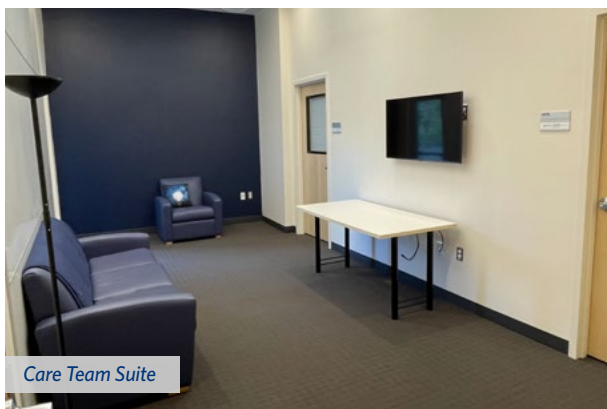
- Community Living commissioned Erica Hwang '25, a student Community Advisor, to paint a "Light of Reason" mural in Ridgewood A, a prominent view that has been empty since the building's construction. In addition, DCL updated the lobby furniture in the Skyline Residence Hall, increasing seating capacity and creating more study spaces for residents.
- The Dean of Students team created a new Care Team suite in the Shapiro Campus Center, creating a more accessible space and co-locating critical student support services.
- The Health Center implemented two key diagnostic tools — the BinaxNOW point-of-care influenza testing device and a 12-lead EKG machine — enhancing the speed and accuracy of respiratory illness diagnostics and expanding the capacity to identify and evaluate cardiac arrhythmias.
- Fundraising remained a key priority for the Division of Student Affairs and seven departments secured grants and donations totaling \$1.3 million to support new and existing programs that improve the overall student experience.



Light of Reason Mural in Ridgewood A



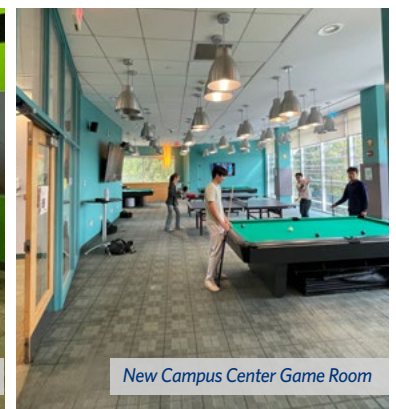
Cycle Room in Gosman Sports Center



Care Team Suite



New Campus Center Game Room



New Campus Center Game Room



Divisional Accomplishments

Access and Excellence

- The Department of Athletics, Recreation and Physical Education supported the establishment of the Athlete Ally student organization and the continued work of other student affinity groups.* In addition, they expanded programming for the second annual Pride Games.
- Spiritual Life collaborated with the Intercultural Center and the Gender and Sexuality Center on a series of "Be Curious" Dinners,* which became a tradition fostering thoughtful intergroup engagement.
- The staff in Community Engagement (a part of Student Engagement) continued to support the Roses in Concrete Program for the fourth year. The program paired 31 Brandeis students and Waltham High School mentees for a yearlong mentorship experience.
- The Hiatt Career Center hosted a new event focused on access and excellence in partnership with alumni and the Alumni of Color (AOC) Network, helping students connect with inclusive employers and affinity-based networks.*
- Members of the Care Team in the Dean of Students Office co-chaired the second annual Neurodiversity Celebration Week, helping to reduce stigma and increase belonging for neurodiverse students.
- The Counseling Center and Health Services supported programs and services that focus on cultural responsiveness including offering a Lending Library in the Health Center with inclusive resources and providing training for staff to better support both Muslim- and Jewish-identified students.

* Open to all students

By The Numbers

922

Students attended at least one Hillel program (a 21% increase*)

108

Religious services organized by Spiritual Life (excluding Hillel services)

30

Graduate and undergraduate cultural student organizations

100

Attendees at the MLK Day of Service

15

Students participated in Project On Ramp (a 9% increase*)

*from the 2023-2024 academic year



Shamsi Mumtahina Momo '27

Major: Computer Science

Her Story:

Shamsi is a technology rockstar who has actively engaged with the Hiatt Career Center and challenged herself to step outside her comfort zone. Her interest in innovation through AI and entrepreneurship have led her to intern as a Software Engineer at IHMC and hold technical roles at Maka.ai, Break Through Tech AI @MIT, and Snap Inc(Extern). Shamsi also worked as an undergraduate research assistant for the Brandeis Lab for Linguistics and Computation, founded tech-based Stealth Startup, served as the Media Coordinator for the Deis Robotics club, and was the President of the Brandeis Girls Who Code club.

**STUDENT
SPOTLIGHT**

Challenge Areas

- **Budgetary constraints and institutional reorganizations** continue to impact core operational needs, as well as program creation, scaling, and improvements.
- **Staffing challenges**, including departures and hiring, make it difficult to maintain operational continuity, increase workloads for remaining staff, and impact progress towards strategic initiatives.
- The impact of the **socio-political climate, both domestically and abroad**, have directly impacted student well-being. Specifically, students from a variety of backgrounds are presenting more significant mental health challenges, feel a lack of belonging due to identity, may be hesitant to seek support services, and have been experiencing other barriers to success.
- **Communication with students remains a challenge.** The university lacks a centralized system to share important information with students, therefore students receive messages from different offices across campus through both opt-in and all-campus systems without strategy or coordination on content or timing. Feedback from students reflects that this results in a perceived lack of institutional transparency, makes it difficult to find engagement opportunities, and overshadows important notifications about policy updates.
- There is a demonstrated increase in the **frequency and complexity of student cases** including mental and physical health, academic integrity, student conduct, distressed students, relationship violence, and other acute issues.
- **Aging infrastructure and limited capital resources** continue to make it challenging to maintain facilities that meet current expectations and student needs. This results in operational inefficiency, persistent challenges for accessibility, and impacts the student experience at Brandeis.



Kenneth Sicat '26

Major: Health: Science, Society & Policy

His Story:

Kenneth (Kenny) is a Bridge to Wellness (BTW) Coordinator, majoring in Biology, Health Policy, and Hispanic Studies. As BTW's Events Team Leader, Kenny excelled at building community. He proactively forged new connections with numerous campus organizations, including cultural clubs, varsity athletic teams, and the Greek Advisory Council, creating impactful events and outreach initiatives that had a direct impact on student wellness. Kenny balanced this demanding coordinator role with his responsibilities as a pre-med student, Community Advisor, organic chemistry tutor, and volunteer with the Waltham Group, showcasing his holistic commitment to student well-being and community engagement.

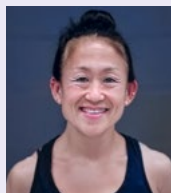


Staff Highlights

Staff Accomplishments



Michelle Woolfrey, FNP completed her Doctorate with Frontier University.



Kat Page, Fitness Coordinator, ran her first Iron Man Triathlon.



Dani Bishop, Head Softball Coach, was named to the DIII National Softball Committee.



Jon Schlesinger, Executive Director of the Hiatt Career Center, began his term as Treasurer for the Liberal Arts Career Network (LACN)

and served as a faculty member at the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Management Leadership Institute.



Quentin Cox, Assistant Area Coordinator for Community Living and Graduate Assistant for SRCS, completed Restorative Justice Training in fall 2024.



Sarah Reilly, Staff Therapist in the Counseling Center, earned their Licensed Independent Clinical Social Work (LICSW) license.



Deepa Khatri, Associate Director for Budget and Operations, was elected to serve as a Lead Facilitator for the NACA student Government Cohort and as a member of the NASPA 2025-2026 Mid-Level Administrator Steering Committee.



Janay Diaz and Kurt Ferguson were inducted into the ACUHO-I (College Housing Officers) Foundation of Excellence.



Staff Highlights

Professional Development

- **Jing Zhang**, Assistant Director for the Office of Graduate Affairs, attended the NASPA Strategies Conference in Boston which supported the development of peer leader trainings for graduate students.
- **Bob Baker**, Associate Director of Student Rights and Community Standards, attended the Academic Integrity Conference in Chicago and continues to be involved in the Association of Student Conduct Administration Region 11 Academic Integrity cohort.
- **Taisha White**, Assistant Director, Community Engagement and Leadership, Attended the NCore Conference 2025, supporting the creation of inclusive community service programs.
- **Ashley Hoffer** served as the Professional Development & Events Chair for the New England Association of College and University Housing Officers (NEACUHO).
- **Alyssa Mauriello**, Clinical Care Team Manager, completed Foundational Motivational Interviewing, a 2-day intensive course at the Health Education & Training Institute in Portland, ME.
- **Kimberly O'Toole**, RN, attended the Annual Immunization Conference for College Health in Boston, and utilized the information to align immunization programs with best practices.

Selected Presentations

- **Calvin Chu** and **Sandra Sylvestre** presented a session, "From New Hire to Higher Ed Hero: Strategies for Success and Support of New Career Development Talent," at the National Career Development Association (NCDA) annual conference.
- **Doug Chatterton** presented "From Hindsight to Insight: The Value of Project Reviews" at the Small College Career Alliance (SCCA), applying project management best practices to higher education programming.
- Hillel Executive Director **Rabbi Seth Winberg** published an article for eJewishPhilanthropy entitled "A Vision for Jewish Flourishing on Campus."



Erica Hwang '25

Major: Business and Psychology

Her Story:

Erica is a 2025 graduate who majored in Business and Psychology and served as the Vice President of the Student Union and an Admissions Ambassador. She also served her peers as a Roosevelt Fellow and Community Advisor in the residence halls. Erica found numerous ways to combine her passion for entrepreneurship with social impact including serving as the Project Manager for the annual "DeisHacks" hackathon for social good and designed and painted a mural in the Ridgewood residence hall lobby that has become a new landmark on campus (see p. 14).

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Future Focus Areas

- Enhance the student experience through program development, engagement opportunities, and high impact practices that support retention and success.
- Prioritize and expand resources for mental and physical health services, advocacy, and spiritual guidance.
- Realign the divisional strategic plan and assessment initiatives to align with current and future university goals and priorities.
- Increase collaboration and partnership opportunities with campus stakeholders to provide a seamless student experience.
- Improve communication and outreach efforts to streamline event and information messaging to minimize redundancy and prioritize engagement opportunities. This includes enhancing social media, branding, and marketing efforts meet industry standards and reach more students.
- Increase student training and experiential education initiatives including the development and alignment of student employment and peer leader training programs across the division.
- Optimize available financial, capital, and technological resources to ensure operational efficiency.
- Invest resources to support staff recruitment, development, and retention.



Matthew Pfeffer '27

Major: Art History

His Story:

Matthew served as the Israel Engagement Coordinator on the Hillel Student Board and was involved with Hillel since his freshman year. He participated in the pre-orientation program, the Hillel Organization of Gamers (HOG), and BaRuCh (the Reform minyan). As Israel Engagement coordinator, he worked tirelessly to build bridges between students who have different backgrounds and opinions about Israel. Matthew was also involved in the Brandeis Pickleball club and volunteered to organize conventions with BBYO.





Brandeis

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