

May, 1998

Dear Friends,

I am always amazed by how much we manage to do during the nine months of the academic year. I constantly marvel at the quality of the educational experience at Brandeis both in and out of the classroom. This year I began the practice of attending a class each week. Among those were Ibrahim Sundiata's *Africa and the West*, Stephen Whitfield's *American Film and Culture of the 1920s*, Irwin Levitan and Robert Sekuler's *The Brain: From Molecules to Control of Movement*, and Susan Parker's *Techniques of Calculus*. Not only was I impressed by the faculty members' command of their subject matter, but also by their skill in teaching. This experience has been so invaluable that I intend to continue it next year.

In January, we again hosted the American College Theater Festival Region I finals sponsored by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In March, Brandeis hosted the 14th annual NCAA Division III indoor track and field championships, followed by Brandeis's second place finish in the UAA baseball championship. Special celebrations this semester have included the annual Festival of the Arts, Women's History Month, Black History Month, Asian Awareness Week, Christian Education Week, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Pride Month.

March also saw the official opening of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life, made possible by a \$13 million gift to Brandeis from Abraham Feinberg, the second chairman of the Board of Trustees. The Center examines questions of ethics, social justice and moral responsibility through projects that draw on the strengths and confront the challenges of national, racial, ethnic, linguistic and religious pluralism. On March 26, 16 coexistence scholars from South Africa, Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia, Sri Lanka, Israel and the Palestinian National Authority area met on campus to mark the official opening of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life. The program for the 16 fellows consists of a ten-day institute at Brandeis completed in March, a second institute in November, and a project in coexistence work in the fellows' home communities in the intervening months. Last fall the Center named eight Brandeis undergraduates as ethics and coexistence student fellows. This summer they will work in grassroots inter-ethnic coexistence organizations in various parts of the world.

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In January, *Israel in the Arab Mirror* was the first conference co-sponsored by Brandeis and the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies of Tel Aviv University. Brandeis is the American host for the Moshe Dayan Academic Ambassadorship Program, which each year will bring a faculty member to campus to teach about the Middle East. Professor Asher Susser of Tel Aviv University, the first academic ambassador, was joined by Dr. Patrick Clawson of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy; Professor Ibrahim Karawan, an Egyptian specialist from the University of Utah; Professor and former Israeli Ambassador to the United States Itamar Rabinovich; Brandeis Professor Kanan Makiya, a specialist on Iraq; and Dr. Martin Kramer, Director of the Dayan Center at Tel Aviv University.

The conference was the first in a series of events at Brandeis celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. Other events include: • a festival of films about Israel or by Israeli filmmakers screened between March 26 and April 5 in the University's new Cinematheque, made possible through the generosity of Edie and Lew Wasserman of Los Angeles; • publication by Brandeis University Press of *Encounters with the "Holy Land": Place, Past, and Future in American Jewish Culture*, a museum catalogue sponsored by the National Museum of American Jewish History; and • a wide variety of student-sponsored social, artistic, and cultural programs. In June, Brandeis University's International Research Institute on Jewish Women will collaborate with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in a major conference on Jewish Women of the *Yishuv* (Palestine) and as founders of the State of Israel. This conference is the first of its kind, the second half of which, on the theme of American Jewish women's contributions to creating the State of Israel, will be held at Brandeis in the spring of 1999.

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This semester we have welcomed to campus many interesting speakers. On February 2 more than 500 students and guests filled Spingold Theater to hear former Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, Professor Susan Tolchin of George Washington University, and former Texas Governor and Richman Distinguished Visiting Professor Ann Richards discuss women in politics. Other visitors to campus this semester include: • Israeli Minister of Industry and Trade Natan Sharansky; • Nobel Prize-winning Nigerian writer and political activist Wole Soyinka, who delivered the inaugural Andrei Sakharov Memorial Lecture on "Cultural Relativism and Absolute Rights;" • Cuban-American artist DEMI, whose work addresses child abuse; and • Eileen McNamara, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for *The Boston Globe*, who joined Brandeis resident scholar Florence Graves and Professor Linda Hirshman to participate in a Women's History Month event, "He said, She said: Sex Scandals in the Media."

On Friday, May 8, Brandeis will bestow on His Holiness, Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, an honorary doctorate of humane letters. The religious and political leader of the Tibetan people in exile, the Dalai Lama will also give a public address on Saturday and will meet with leading China scholars. The Dalai Lama's visit will launch an effort by Brandeis to establish co-existence scholarships in the Sustainable International Development Program [SID] of the Heller School for one Chinese and one Tibetan student. Throughout the spring semester, students have created Seven Weeks on Tibet, a series of cultural, political, and religious programs, organized with Professor of Sociology Gordon Fellman, chair of the Peace and Conflict Studies Program, in cooperation with SID, Students for a Free Tibet, and the Tibetan Association of Boston. The programs included: • Tibetan dancing and singing; • documentary films, including *Compassion in Exile* by Mickey Lemle '69; • a Tibetan-Jewish liberation seder; and • a panel on Non-Violence in World Religions, with representatives of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism.

This year's honorary degree recipients are German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who will deliver the commencement address; Brandeis trustee, philanthropist, and Jewish communal leader Sylvia Hassenfeld; noted civil rights activist Congressman John Lewis of Georgia; playwright Arthur Miller; Israeli novelist and peace activist Amos Oz; and former Secretary of State George Shultz. Chancellor Kohl, who has been honored at major universities in Israel and around the world, will also open the new Center for German and European Studies.

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This coming fall, the Graduate School of International Economics and Finance will introduce two new degree programs. The Master of Business Administration/International (MBAi) is a full-time, four-semester program in international business and finance. Like the highly successful Lemberg Program, the MBAi includes a semester abroad at a leading business school in Europe, Asia or Latin America. The new Master of Science in Finance (MSF) is a part-time evening program for working professionals, providing advanced training in financial management. The Florence Heller Graduate School for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare will introduce the Master of Business Administration (human services), designed to prepare individuals to manage large, multi-site corporate structures. This unique MBA draws on Heller's rich history in social policy.

The University currently has 42 patents, about 50 pending, and 45 executed licensing agreements, most of which emanate from the life sciences, biomedical research, and computer science. To manage these patents, we have created the Technology Transfer Office headed by Dr. Sheryl Greenberg, the intellectual property manager in the Office of Grants and Contracts. A gift to underwrite this initiative was provided by Peter C. Hereld of Hamden, CT.

Beginning in December, the University reviewed its food services in order to provide greater menu and food variety, enhanced quality and service, and improved facilities at reasonable costs. I am pleased to report that Executive Vice President Peter French created an open process of review involving students, faculty and staff, which resulted in the selection of Aramark to operate dining services beginning July 1, 1998. This contract guarantees offers of employment at present salaries and with comparable benefits to all current dining service employees.

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In the fall, students will find a higher speed communications network in the residence halls. There will also be a new e-mail system for all students, with accounts that remain active for one year following graduation. Internet services are being expanded to meet increasing demand. Two new servers will be added: PointCast, providing national and soon international news feeds; and RealAudio, to streamline digital lectures and to provide digitized language lessons from the innovative Digital Language Lab under development. Electronic library services will be accessible on a 24-hour basis, and the library is expanding its information services, including its CD-ROM collection and the Electronic Reserve Project. Professional and student staff are being augmented. Finally, all students will now have a single personal telephone number with voice mail throughout their Brandeis career.

In August, we will welcome one of the academically strongest classes in the University's history. Once again Brandeis received a near record number of applications for admission, with increased diversity of applicants. Our gift to the entering class this summer is Jonathan Harr's *A Civil Action*. During convocation, Mr. Harr and members of the faculty will join the students to discuss the book.

Students will also have an opportunity this fall to study with Visiting Professor of Women's Studies Anita Hill, who will teach two courses, *Race and the Law* and *Women, Media and the Law*. Visiting faculty members contribute an important dimension to the University's educational program. Among the visiting faculty this past year were former Texas Governor Ann Richards; Hollywood director Sam Weisman (MFA '73); Brazilian historian Joao Jose Reis; and Fannie Hurst Poet-in-Residence Jay Wright. Visiting professors during the 1998-1999 academic year will be Pakistani novelist and

teacher Bapsi Sidhwa and Ethiopian anthropologist and Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor Tsehai Berhane-Selassie.

The 1998-1999 academic year will mark the 50th anniversary of Brandeis University's founding, beginning on October 16 with a major symposium, *The Declaration of Human Rights: The Unfinished Agenda* to be followed on Saturday, October 17, by a gala dinner-dance at the Marriott Copley Place Hotel in Boston. Other events will take place throughout the year, concluding with commencement, a concert at Jordan Hall in Boston by cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, the Lydian String Quartet, and Brandeis composer and pianist Professor Yehudi Wyner to benefit the Andrei Sakharov Archives at Brandeis, and on June 12, a Brandeis Night at the Pops.

I hope that many of you will join with us for the festivities surrounding commencement and the University's 50th anniversary celebration. I wish you a wonderful spring and relaxing summer.

Sincerely,

Jehuda Reinharz Ph.D. '72