CLASS OF 1989
25TH REUNION
May 2014

Dear Members of the Class of 1989,

I look forward to welcoming you back to campus for your 25th Reunion. Whether you are returning for the first time since your Commencement or have visited us often over the years, I am delighted to count you among the members of our family who will gather here in June.

I extend my deep gratitude to the committee that has worked so diligently to plan this celebration; your Reunion is a significant milestone for you and for Brandeis, and we have organized an exciting program of events. From the moment you arrive on Friday through the Farewell Champagne and Jazz Brunch on Sunday, you will be honored guests of your alma mater. There will be plenty of time to catch up with your classmates, reminisce about the old days, and acquaint yourself with the Brandeis of today.

We hope that you will take note of the many exciting changes on our ever-evolving campus. The spectacular Carl J. Shapiro Science Center provides the teaching labs, classrooms, and research facilities necessary to attract and retain top science students and faculty. The Ridgewood dorms have been replaced with apartment-style residence halls for juniors and seniors. Our newest building, the Mandel Center for the Humanities, opened only four years ago and reflects the University’s enduring commitment to the humanities and social sciences. And finally, a beautiful new Admissions Center allows us to accommodate high school students’ steadily-growing interest in Brandeis.

Despite these developments, the values that brought each of you to Brandeis have remained constant. While our grounds might look different, the bedrock principles that underlie the special spirit of our community—a shared commitment to scholarship, teaching, and social justice—live on through our students, faculty, and alumni.

My thanks to the Committee and to our alumni staff for organizing what promises to be a wonderful weekend. Welcome home!

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Lawrence

The Irving Enclave
415 South Street
Mailstop 100
Waltham, Massachusetts
02453-2728
Special Thanks

On behalf of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, we would like to thank the members of the Class of 1989 Reunion Committee

James M. Eber, Co-chair
Alyssa Iris Sanders, Co-chair

Michelle Davis Cohen, Welcome Back Party Coordinator
Michelle Fiddler, Yearbook Coordinator and Welcome Back Party Coordinator
Catherine F. Nassa, Yearbook Coordinator

Bronte Ward Abraham
Alexandra M. Ainsztein
Lori E. Bring-Olbrys
Hedy Robin Cardozo
Monica R. Harris
Shari Dawn Lurie
Emily Shapiro Navetta
Andrea Molod Soloway
Class of 1989 Timeline

**News**
- Breakthrough in US - USSR Arms Talks between Reagan and Gorbachev leads to commitment to disarm, thus ending a long period of instability caused by the Cold War.
- Ex-Navy analyst, Jonathan Jay Pollard, 31, found guilty as a spy for Israel.
- Major nuclear accident at Soviet Union’s Chernobyl power station alarms world.
- Approximately seven million Americans join hands in “Hands Across America.”
- Space shuttle Challenger explodes after launch at Cape Canaveral, FL, killing all seven aboard.
- British Surgeons perform the world’s first triple transplant (heart, lung and liver).

**Pop Culture**
- Academy Award, Best Picture: *Out of Africa*
- First ten musicians are inducted into Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Fame.
- IBM unveils the PC Convertible, the first laptop computer.
- Barry Diller, creates Fox, the fourth television network, which offers 10 hours of prime-time programming a week.
- *The Oprah Winfrey Show* hits national television.
- Nintendo video games introduced in U.S.
- *The Voyager* makes the first nonstop flight around the world without refueling.

**Movies**
- *Top Gun*
- *Crocodile Dundee*
- *Platoon*
- *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*
- *Aliens*

**Economy**
- Average cost of new house: $89,430
- Average monthly rent: $385.00
- Average price for new car: $9,255
- Gallon of gas: 89 cents
- First-class stamp: $0.22

**TV Shows**
- *Hill Street Blues*
- *Cagney and Lacey*
- *Cheers*
- *Family Ties*
- *Highway to Heaven*
- *Murder, She Wrote*
- *Growing Pains*

**Died this Year**
- Georgia O’Keeffe
- Harold Macmillan
- Duchess of Windsor

1986
World News
Supernova is observed, the first “naked-eye” supernova since 1604
The Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie (Butcher of Lyon) is found guilty of crimes against humanity
William Buckley, American hostage in Lebanon, reported slain
Iraqi missiles kill 37 in attack on U.S. frigate Stark in Persian Gulf; Iraqi president Hussein apologizes

Pop Culture
Academy Award, Best Picture: Platoon
Prozac is released for use in U.S. by Eli Lilly & Company
Disposable contact lenses become available for commercial distribution
Televangelist Jim Bakker Scandal
The Simpsons is seen on TV for the first time

US News
AZT wins FDA approval for use in the treatment of AIDS
U.S. Stock Market crashes on October 19 with a 22.6% point drop
Admiral John M. Poindexter, former National Security Adviser, testifies he authorized use of Iran arms sale profits to aid Contras
Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand make the first transatlantic hot-air balloon flight

Movies
Fatal Attraction
Beverly Hills Cop II
The Untouchables
Lethal Weapon
Dirty Dancing
RoboCop
Moonstruck

Economy
Average cost of new house: $92,000
Average income per year: $24,350
Average monthly rent: $395.00
Average price for new car: $10,305
Gallon of gas: 89 cents
US postage stamp: 24 cents
One dozen eggs: 65 cents

Died this Year
Andy Warhol
Rudolf Hess
John Huston
James Baldwin

1987
World News

Winter Olympics are held in Alberta, Canada
Summer Olympics are held in Seoul, South Korea
Soviet Red Army withdraws from Afghanistan
Pan-Am 747 explodes from terrorist bomb and crashes in Lockerbie, Scotland, killing all 259 aboard and 11 on ground

US News

U.S. Navy ship shoots down Iranian airliner in Persian Gulf, mistaking it for jet fighter; 290 killed
Over 1/3 of Yellowstone National Park is destroyed when a series of more than 250 small different fires combined with the 1988 Drought destroys 793,880 acres of the park
U.S. Shuttle Program resumes 2 1/2 years after the Challenger disaster
Republicans sweep 40 states in election, and George Bush beats Michael Dukakis
NASA scientist James Hansen warns congress of the dangers of the global warming and the greenhouse effect

Movies

Rain Man
Who Framed Roger Rabbit
Big
Die Hard
Beetlejuice
A Fish Called Wanda

Economy

Average cost of new house: $91,600
Average income per year: $24,450
Average monthly rent: $420.00
Average price for new car: $10,400
Gallon of gas: 91 cents
Movie ticket: $3.50
US postage stamp: 24 cents
Dozen eggs: 65 cents
Gallon of milk: $1.89

Died this Year

Roy Orbison
Chet Baker
Luis Alvarez
Edgar Jean Faure
Nora Astorga

1988
**World News**

Massive protests and either side of the Berlin Wall bring about the collapse of the East German Government. The Berlin Wall is eventually dismantled and the Brandenburg Gate is opened.

Thousands of Students occupy Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China protesting for democracy—hundreds of Demonstrators are killed.

The U.S. and other countries around the world place sanctions on China.

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the Dalai Lama.

**US News**

The United States Supreme Court rules that flag burning is a form of political protest and is an act of protected speech under the First Amendment to the Constitution.

A San Francisco Bay area earthquake measuring 7.1 in magnitude killed 67 and injured over 3,000. Over 100,000 buildings are damaged or destroyed.

The Serial Killer, Ted Bundy, is executed in Florida’s electric chair.

The first of 24 satellites of the Global Positioning System is placed into orbit.

**Economy**

Average cost of new house: $120,000

Average income per year: $27,450

Average monthly rent: $420.00

Average price for new car: $15,350

Gallon of gas: 97 cents

U.S. postage stamp: 25 cents

**Movies**

Batman

Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade

Lethal Weapon 2

Back to the Future Part II

Driving Miss Daisy

Dead Poets Society

When Harry Met Sally

**Pop Culture**

Academy Award, Best Picture: *Rain Man*

Visionary Jaron Lanier coins the term ‘virtual reality’ and produces equipment to experience it.

First World Wide Web server and browser developed.

*Voyager 2* speeds by Neptune after making startling discoveries about the planet and its moons.

Scientists pronounce 1989 as the warmest on record possibly a sign of the greenhouse effect.

First release of Microsoft Office.

Salman Rushdie's novel *Satanic Verses* is published and sparks immediate controversy. Islamic militants put a price on his head.

**Died this Year**

Lucille Ball

Samuel Beckett

Salvador Dali

Bette Davis

Ferdinand Marcos

Billy Martin

Laurence Olivier

Sugar Ray Robinson

Andrei Sakharov

Robert Penn Warren

1989
## Top 10 1986

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artist/Track</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lionel Richie, “Say You, Say Me”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prince, “Kiss”</td>
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<td>Robert Palmer, “Addicted to Love”</td>
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<td>Whitney Houston, “Greatest Love of All”</td>
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<td>Peter Gabriel, “a”</td>
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<td>Madonna, “Papa Don’t Preach”</td>
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<td>Steve Winwood, “Higher Love”</td>
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<td>Huey Lewis &amp; the News, “Stuck with You”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyndi Lauper, “True Colors”</td>
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<td>Bon Jovi, “You Give Love a Bad Name”</td>
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## Top 10 1987

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<th>Artist/Track</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Bangles, “Walk Like an Egyptian”</td>
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<td>Bon Jovi, “Livin’ On a Prayer”</td>
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<td>Starship, “Nothing’s Gonna Stop Us Now”</td>
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<td>Cutting Crew, “(I Just) Died In Your Arms”</td>
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<tr>
<td>U2, “With or Without You”</td>
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<td>Whitney Houston, “I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)”</td>
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<td>Michael Jackson, “I Just Can’t Stop Loving You”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whitesnake, “Here I Go Again”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Medley &amp; Jennifer Warnes, “(I’ve Had) The Time of My Life”</td>
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<td>Belinda Carlisle, “Heaven Is a Place on Earth”</td>
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## Top 10 1988

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<th>Artist/Track</th>
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<tr>
<td>George Michael, “Faith”</td>
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<td>Michael Jackson, “The Way You Make Me Feel”</td>
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<td>INXS, “Need You Tonight”</td>
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<td>George Michael, “Father Figure”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Jackson, “Man in the Mirror”</td>
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<td>Whitney Houston, “Where Do Broken Hearts Go”</td>
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<td>Guns N’ Roses, “Sweet Child O’ Mine”</td>
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<td>Bobby McFerrin, “Don’t Worry Be Happy”</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Beach Boys, “Kokomo”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bon Jovi, “Bad Medicine”</td>
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## Top 10 1989

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<th>Artist/Track</th>
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<tr>
<td>Poison, “Every Rose Has Its Thorn”</td>
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<td>Bobby Brown, “My Prerogative”</td>
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<td>Paula Abdul, “Straight Up”</td>
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<td>Fine Young Cannibals, “She Drives Me Crazy”</td>
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<td>Madonna, “Like a Prayer”</td>
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<td>Bette Midler, “Wind Beneath My Wings”</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Kids on the Block, “I’ll Be Loving You (Forever)”</td>
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<td>Richard Marx, “Satisfied”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simply Red, “If You Don’t Know Me by Now”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Jackson, “Miss You Much”</td>
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1989
- President: Evelyn Handler
- Commencement Speaker: E.L. Doctorow (acclaimed novelist and short story writer)
- Tuition: $10,150
- Students Enrolled in Fall Term: 3,755
- Number of Graduates: 657

Today
- President: Frederick M. Lawrence
- Commencement Speaker: Geoffrey Canada (President/CEO of Harlem Children’s Zone)
- Tuition: $43,980
- Total Undergraduates: 3,504
- Clubs and Organizations: 260+
- Number of Majors and Minors: 43 and 45
Composer, Trustee Bernstein Dead at 72

Novelist Angelou to Keynote Women’s Month

Pro-Choice Students Rally; Defend Roe vs. Wade Ruling

Singer Elvis Costello Booked For Bronstein Weekend Show

Faculty Votes For Int'l Studies Program

NASA Astronauts To Train On Campus
Trustee Lawrence Wien Dies; Established Int’l Scholarships

By Todd McSweeney

Lawrence A. Wien, one of Manhattan’s prominent businessmen, who endowed the prominent international scholarships program bearing his name, died on Nov. 24th due to cancer. He was 76 years old.

Wien, who arrived at the School of Thought in 1947 to 1949 and was chairman from 1966 to 1971, also founded the University Parent Center and established the award of Justice Brandeis. The University’s students. He received a honorary degree from Brandeis in 1981.

"With the passing of Larry Wien, Brandeis University lost a great friend and benefactor," University President Stanley H. Brager said on Wednesday. "It is a tragedy that he was so young and that he had to leave the University at such an early age.

A prominent New York-based retailer, Wien was a trustee and director of the 30-year-old firm Wien, known for its emphasis on education and commitment to charitable contributions in hundreds of dollars in Brandeis and Carnegie University, his alma mater. His donation to Carnegie exceeded $120 million, while Brandeis has received over $8.5 million.

In addition, Wien was a board member of the Foundation of Jewish Education in New York City and served as an honorary chairman and board member. He was also a member of the New York City Board of Education and the Los Angeles Board of Education.

"Larry Wien was the man who made his mark in the life of this university," Brandeis President Jonathan Blotcher said. "He played a major role, financially and otherwise, in shaping the institution." Wien is survived by his wife, S. Joyce Wien, and three children.

The Justice

The Independent Student Newspaper of Brandeis University

Campus Police

Lobby For Guns

Heller School Receives $1M Grant; Establishes Elderly Research Center

The baseball team is now competing in the first UAA baseball tournament ever.

250 Students Join Thousands in D.C., Defend Women’s Rights, Abortion

The National Organization for Women (NOW) held a rally in Washington, D.C., last week to protest the Supreme Court’s decision to uphold the abortion ban in Texas. The rally was one of many held across the country to support reproductive rights.

"Women have the right to make decisions about their own bodies," said NOW President Karen Sloan. "The decision by the Supreme Court to uphold the ban is a setback for reproductive rights and women’s health." Sloan said NOW will continue to fight for reproductive rights and access to safe, legal abortion.

Campaigns to educate and organize voters for the November 2016 elections.

Abortion

Safe-Funded-Legal
Dear Students:

Whether you are a graduating senior or completing your freshman year, know that your four years at Brandeis represent an exciting and profound introduction to academic pursuits and the life of the mind. Through hard work and discipline, your undergraduate education will become the foundation for all your subsequent intellectual and professional achievements. In that sense, a college education bestows both opportunity and responsibility on its beneficiaries.

Many of you entered Brandeis already certain of your goals, while others of you have experimented with various disciplines before deciding upon a concentration, taking a more adventurous route to your education. By designing a curriculum that is based in the liberal arts and sciences, Brandeis has ensured that either approach to a general education will provide you access to the world’s great ideas and accomplishments.

As I glance across the pages of the 1989 ARCHON, I am impressed by the energy and enthusiasm so evident in your faces. Although I do not know each of you personally, I am heartened by your commitment to achieve what is best in yourselves, and to expect no less from others.

I fulfilling the promise of its mission, Brandeis’ foremost concern is undergraduate education, while providing all of its students opportunities for advanced study. I hope that we have encouraged you to go beyond your first impressions and to pursue knowledge to its full richness and depth. I wish you luck in all your pursuits.

Sincerely,

Evelyn E. Handler
President
Life since Brandeis...
Since leaving Brandeis, I have lived on both sides of the country -- first in Washington DC, then Menlo Park, CA for 15 years, and now in Lexington, MA.
It is wonderful to be back on the East Coast where the boys can visit Brandeis and we are near so many friends and family! We are learning to appreciate the New England winter by skiing and ice skating our weekends away. In the summers we enjoy visiting the beaches including an annual outing to Rhode Island with Catherine Nassa.
I am married and have two boys, Micah (14) and Jacob (7). After Brandeis, I went to the College of William and Mary where I received an M.B.A. I have spent the past 20+ years in a variety of positions in the healthcare field including financial management for a USAID contractor specializing in the eradication of childhood diseases, healthcare association marketing and industry relations, in-house pharmaceutical and agency marketing, and running my own medical communications consulting firm. I currently work as a part-time contractor for the Global Marketing Group at Millennium Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, and am pleased to be part of a team that aspires to enhance patient quality of life and cure cancer. My husband is general counsel to a small biotech in the Boston area.

In addition to Catherine, I stay in regular contact with many of my Brandeis friends including Mod 32 mates Tamar “Nahman” Siegel, and Rhonda “Cohen” Eiger, as well as our pseudo mod-mate Sara “Grossman” Sanders. Technology makes it fun to be in touch and reconnect with many other classmates.
In my spare time, I am active with my two boys -- including supporting and participating in many activities for children with special needs as my oldest has autism. These include awesome groups such as Gateways for Jewish Education which trained my son for his Bar Mitzvah, the Boston Conservatory of Music Autism Program which taught my son to Rock Out for his RockMitzvah reception, and New England Disabled Sports for skiing.
We are looking forward to catching up with folks in June.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
Do Economics and Business -- not Chemistry!
Life since Brandeis...

Brandeis gave me the foundation for much that I cherish in my life: my values, my profession, my friendships, and my drive to change the world. I have spent the last 25 years as a social worker, educator, and scholar of social welfare and social justice. I thank Brandeis for inspiring me to work toward justice through scholarship.

I am also blessed to have found a loving family: my husband Owen, my two sons Eli (11) and Noah (9). In regard to balance, I have found that although we thought we could “have it all” as women in the 80s it turns out that working and having children demands an incredible amount of sacrifice on all fronts. Now that my children are getting older, I am finding that I have a little more time for getting back to my own interests.

Many of my best friends are still from Brandeis. I will always cherish these relationships.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Have fun, don’t sweat the small stuff, and learn as much as you can. It doesn’t get much better than these four years!
Life since Brandeis...

Although I graduated from Brandeis a year early, I have many fond memories of Orientation, dorm life and three amazing years on campus with my freshman classmates. I live in Rye Brook, NY with my husband and two daughters. After spending years as a litigator in Manhattan, I shifted gears to spend more time with my family. I am a law professor, author and consultant with a particular interest in product liability law. I also work as the Director of Marketing and Special Events for a local business. I always enjoy reconnecting with Brandeis friends near and far. If we’ve been out of touch, I would love to hear from you! E-mail me at profackerman@optonline.net or friend me on Facebook!
Life since Brandeis...

I am doing well. I’m happy and I definitely have a better perspective on life nowadays. After Brandeis I got my doctorate at Florida, met Paul, got married and moved to Maryland, then Scotland, and back to Maryland for a second postdoc. Living in Europe is a real treasure. I highly recommend it. I love traveling, and decorating, and tools and gadgets. I’m very close to my dear friends, and although I have kept in touch with only a few classmates, the mind does recall the fun memories we shared there and I wish you all well. I feel lucky to be part of a large university family...700 is enough for me. I am much more relaxed and comfortable than I was back in the day. Wish we could do parts of it again - minus the stress of grades and pressure to get into grad school hanging overhead. I look forward to reconnecting and doing a better job of keeping connected. Long life, health and happiness to each of you!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Freshman year:

Relax and enjoy the experience. Not every group you joined has to be a resume builder. Take lots of pictures. Hang out with the girls in your suite more. :)

Alexandra M. Ainsztein
Life since Brandeis...

The past 25 years in a nutshell? Well, here goes...I graduated from Albany Law School, took the bar exam, got married, relocated from Long Island to Rochester, bought a house, and started a new job. I’ve been married for 21 years to my husband, Marc. We have 2 usually terrific sons, Max and Jake, who live and breathe baseball. We are the proud parents of a golden retriever named “Zoe” and a Morkie named “Sophie.” I’m a self-employed attorney practicing family law and estate planning. In my free time I love hanging out with my kids and dogs, cooking, boating, spending time in the Finger Lakes, and traveling. I’m getting really sick and tired of all this lake effect snow and cold. I’m planning on moving to a warmer climate as soon as I win the lottery, which should be very soon because I keep buying tickets!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would arrive the first day of orientation to remind myself to take the key to my dorm room so that my roommate, Tamar, would not lock me out and leave me wandering the halls for hours. Also, not to drink too many Scorpion Bowls at Hong Kong because it’s no fun throwing up in a garbage can on the streets of Cambridge.
Pamela Joy Barkley (Biderman)

Life since Brandeis...

I cannot really believe it’s been 25 years since we graduated! I cannot possibly sum up two and half decades of my life in 600 words so here’s the most concise version I can think of:

I have a Masters in Social Work and have been working as the Director of Education at a Synagogue congregational school for the past 13 years. I have decided to “retire” from this position in June and am excited to figure out my next step. It is hard to choose to leave someplace but it is time to move on and I can’t wait to see where I land!

I am happily married with beautiful twin daughters, Hope & Sarah. My girls just turned 16 and I have to say that as I am about to start looking for colleges with them, Brandeis has been on my mind a lot. I really had a wonderful college experience academically and socially....I can only hope my girls are as happy as I was wherever they go.

Other than that, I dance, I sing and am still that loud girl with curly hair that you remember!
Life since Brandeis...

Brandeis was the best experience before getting married and having children. I met my husband in Thailand after graduating from Brandeis in 1989. We got married in December of that same year and we moved to Colombia. We lived in Colombia for 10 years and we had four beautiful girls but the situation was a little dangerous so we moved to Panama in 1999 and had two more kids. Now 25 years later, we have a beautiful life here in Panama. The Jewish community here is very united and rich in its customs and traditions. My oldest daughter Margie got married and we are now proud grandparents. I am very grateful and privileged for the opportunity to be able to study in such a beautiful environment like Brandeis. I would like to send lots of regards to the close friends that I made in the four years at Brandeis. Sorry that I haven’t been the greatest in my communication skills. Hope to be in touch with everyone.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I wouldn’t change anything. Being on campus most of the four years was the best part. My friends were international and Americans which was a great experience. My third year abroad in Israel was such an enlightening time and I would highly recommend it. Maybe I would say that I should have taken more advantage of the classes and professors that Brandeis had to offer. Also I should have taken more advantage of the mornings!!!!!!Writing my Thesis my senior year was a great learning experience. Arriving in the year 1985 was a perfect time. Lots of changes in the world.
Life since Brandeis...

It is hard to believe that we graduated twenty-five years ago! In 1992, I married Cheri Grossman, Brandeis Class of 1991. Cheri and I both graduated from Syracuse University College of Law in 1994. We now live in Fairfax Station, Virginia with our kids Allison (who graduates from High School in June), Emily (9th grade), and Sam (7th grade).

I am a shareholder at the Ober Kaler law firm, where I practice business litigation. I primarily represent financial institutions in commercial and consumer lending disputes, commercial leasing, and employment law. You can find out more about my practice at www.ober.com.

I am active in many community activities. Most notably, Cheri and I are the Washington, DC area co-chairs of Brandeis’ Alumni Admissions Council, although we are taking this year off because Allison applied to Brandeis. In June, I conclude a two-year term as the president of Congregation Olam Tikvah, in Fairfax, which is the largest Conservative synagogue in Virginia. I was appointed as a Commissioner on the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission in 2008 and have been reappointed twice since then. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the Charles E. Smith Life Communities, in Rockville, Maryland.

Cheri recently returned to work after being a stay-at-home mom for nearly seventeen years. She joined a great law firm in Fairfax, where she practices special education law, estate planning, and divorce law.

Unfortunately, I cannot make it to the reunion because of prior commitments. I would love to catch up with my classmates. Please feel free to call me at (202) 326-5037 or send me an e-mail at hgbelkowitz@ober.com.
Life since Brandeis...

Upon graduation, I moved to New York where I have lived, working in Finance, ever since, aside from some brief periods living in Japan and the UK. Most importantly, I have been blessed with a wonderful family. My amazing wife Caryn and I currently live in Manhasset, NY with our two incredible boys, Jesse (12) and Pearce (9). I have not been great at staying in touch with people- but never too late I hope.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Never stop trying.
P.S. Buy Apple stock.
Miriam Krell Bourke

Life since Brandeis...

My husband Andrew Bourke (class of 1989) and I live in Northampton, MA, with our two children, Ari, 14, and Ilana, 12. Ilana is in 7th grade and loves to dance and sing. She dances every day, and competes on two dance teams in tap and jazz. She is looking forward to her bat mitzvah coming up in September.

Ari is in 9th grade and rocks to the classics on his electric guitar. He also plays trumpet in his school band and theater pit band. Ari works as a ‘techie’ for the high school theater and madrich for his sunday school, and bikes everywhere.

Andrew is a licensed psychologist and designated forensic psychologist. After 15 years serving as clinician and then director of the Western Massachusetts Adult Court Clinic, he is now the Central/West Regional Director of Clinical and Professional Services for the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services. In addition, Andrew is in his 4th year as co-president of Beit Ahavah, the Reform Synagogue of Greater Northampton.

I am self-employed as a family attorney and mediator, practicing in Hampshire and Franklin Counties, and providing services in the family courts including conciliation, mediation, advice and services to low income individuals and families. I also serve on the board of directors of the Northampton Education Foundation, which raises funds and provides grants to teachers for innovative and educational programs that support and supplement the curriculum of the Northampton Public Schools.
Life since Brandeis...

When I left Brandeis, I lived in NYC for one year, and then went to Columbia Law School. After graduation, I worked in 2 different large NYC law firms for 5 years and paid off all of my school loans. I then took off two years from law, and traveled to Australia, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Canada, and Israel, interviewing women from the first transports to Auschwitz and finding information about my father and his immediate and extended family members during the Holocaust. My research put me in touch with various religiously observant relatives, exposing me to the Chasidishe world, in particular, and eventually leading me to become religiously observant (although Modern Orthodox). In 2006, I got married to my soulmate, a divorcee with two small children, and moved to California, where my husband was already living. We lived in Los Angeles for 6 years until we made aliyah in July 2012 with our adorable 5 year old redheaded son, and my husband’s lovely 11 year old daughter. We recently bought a house in Northern Israel which we are in the process of renovating. We absolutely love living in Israel and feel that we have finally come home.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would arrive at the end of first semester of my junior year and tell my college self to enjoy the semester abroad in Israel, but to find a way to stay. Nah, not really. Everything I went through I needed to go through in order to be the person I am today.
Life since Brandeis...

Hi everyone. After I graduated, I headed to NYC where I have been since. I worked at National Hadassah for 15 years making films for them, and for the last ten years I have worked as a musician around Brooklyn teaching and playing. I am married and have two boys. Life has treated me well, and hope it has for all of you as well. I have such wonderful memories of our Brandeis years.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would arrive the first day of school. I would tell me to keep a journal. Why didn’t I do that? Maybe because we didn’t have laptops then?
Life since Brandeis...

I’m happily living in Austin with my wife Brandi and our two boys 9 and 3. Two personal values that affected my life at Brandeis have been major themes in my life since leaving Brandeis: interest in Asia and a fondness for my hometown, Austin. At Brandeis I expressed the first by doing my senior honors thesis on trade liberalization in South Korea and the second by organizing a spring training trip to Austin for 25 friends on the Brandeis crew team over spring break to flee the Massachusetts ice and share my city.

After Brandeis I wanted to work in Asia so I started researching and networking to find a place where I could use my Brandeis degree without any native language skill. With my senior thesis as my calling card, I got on a plane to Hong Kong. I was lucky enough to get hired as an analyst covering SE Asian economies for a French bank for a year, then joined the finance department of Club Med Asia where I worked for over 3 years, applying to business schools as I headed back to the states. Somehow, through Brandeis and Hong Kong, my girlfriend Chaunda and I were able to keep the flame alive, we got married then moved to North Carolina for me to pursue an MBA from Duke. Afterwards we took on the adventure of living in Seoul when I joined an internal consulting group at Samsung headquarters for two years. By 1999, all the reasons why I’d left Austin had changed… it was now one of the best cities anywhere for high growth businesses and it was a place full of family and community. While our son was still nursing, and Chaunda on her way to a PhD as a therapist, she found a nodule in her breast which turned out to be breast cancer. After full treatment then months of living clean, her liver came back polka-dotted. They don’t have anything for that (though we threw everything at it). My son and I were suddenly on our own and we had a year of no expectations together. I was so thankful for my family and the supportive structures available in this town. But looking forward, there was still a blank calendar.

One of the lessons of death is carpe diem. How long can I float along and still create a life for myself? As I was wondering what kind of partner would be possible for me again, in some magical way I was drawn to try to meet this woman who was a leader the Austin sustainability and clean energy scene. Ducks lined up, and our relationship blossomed. We got married, had another boy and she adopted mine to close the love circle and at least put some official paper on the scar. It’s so nice knowing Chaunda would be proud of me. As Brandi, my kids and I meet people today, who would ever think it was otherwise?

I’ve taken my finance experience and now help renewable energy companies as a fractional CFO and corporate finance consultant. I love helping advance my wife’s business AustinEcoNetwork.com and most of my volunteer time goes to Solar Austin working to make Austin a leader in clean tech and showing other cities what is possible. It’s an exciting area that each of us is participating in already…the future is here, it’s just unevenly distributed. In any case, please let me know when you are ready to visit Austin!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I’d arrive after orientation and say, “get involved and don’t hold back”.

Scott Burton
Life since Brandeis...

Hard to believe it’s been 25 (!!) years since we were all in Waltham together. Since graduation I’ve lived in Philly, while at grad school, & then Manhattan. I’ve lived in Westchester County, NY with my husband of 14 years, Michael Rosenblut since 1998, we have been residents of Rye Brook, NY (an apparent magnet for Brandeis grads!) since 2001. Michael & I are the proud parents of awesome 10 year old twins, Lucy & Joshua. In order to maintain a ‘balance’ & not have any idle time on my hands, I continue to work part-time as a social work supervisor at The Hebrew Home at Riverdale, where I will mark 23 years of employment in July. The kids keep us busy with sports, scouting, etc., in addition to our jobs & being very involved in our school district & synagogue. I try to get together with my Brandeis buds as often as possible, it’s particularly fun to see my kids developing friendships with my Brandeis friends’ kids. Almost daily I reflect on the skills & values I gained while at Brandeis. My commitment to social justice & making the world a better place, along with my critical thinking & writing abilities are assets I credit to my time at Brandeis. Looking forward to catching up at reunion. I am not on Facebook, but feel free to email: hedozo@aol.com.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would arrive right before Playfair (so much fun!!) & would tell my future self to pick classes that interested me the most, not based upon whether they started before or after 11 AM.
Life since Brandeis...

While I was a student at Brandeis I worked nearly full time at a private, non-profit group that served Developmentally Disabled adults. I continued my work and passion for this field after graduation and worked in several states on the East coast as my life got interesting - through graduate school classes and having babies - until I switched careers in 2005 (more on that in a minute). I participated in numerous innovative and exciting developments while in my career over the years which I am happy to share with anyone that has an interest! I continue to be extremely passionate about this work even while I no longer am employed in this particular field.

I met my husband in Florida in 1991 and we married in 1993 and we have 2 boys - one is currently a senior in high school, the other is a sophomore in high school. My family is very active - always something going on, be it basketball practices or games (one child plays in leagues so for us it is a year-round sport), poker, working out at the gym or just “hanging out” that my teenagers are quite fond of doing.

In 2005 I left social work to become the Human Resources Director for a small law firm that specializes in real estate tax appeals in the state of New Jersey. To say we are busy would be a gross understatement if you know anything about real estate taxes and the State of New Jersey!! I love my job and the people I work for and I especially love that I am 3 blocks from home. Doesn’t get better than that.

In my spare time I continue to be a voracious reader (just not as much during tax appeal season!) and I love my volunteer work at my temple and other organizations that are close to my heart. As I become “more mature” I truly appreciate how blessed I am to have my wonderful husband and my two boys in my life. Regardless of all the career successes, titles, or whatever - for me, my family is my greatest accomplishment hands down.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would tell myself that I should not be so worried about everything! I would also tell myself to avoid a certain UHUM professor who made me miserable - just to spare my young self a semester of grief! Also - take more pictures AND NOT WITH THAT DISC CAMERA!!! Write more journal notes of my experiences and most importantly: Invest all money available in Microsoft & Apple!
Life since Brandeis...

Hi everyone! After Brandeis, I headed south to Atlanta for law school at Emory (with some other great Brandeisians). Graduated in May 1992. Took the bar two months later, got married 2 weeks after that, moved to DC and started my first full time attorney job at a large international firm (ok, it was a little hectic)!

Two years later my son Mike was born. He will be 20 by the time of our reunion and is in college in VA. In 2000, we welcomed David who is now 13, a 7th grader who plays a lot of tennis. Married to Rob Cohen ’88, living in Northern Virginia with our mishugana Basset Hound Bandit Cohen. Have survived getting Mike and David through bar mitzvahs.

I’m still working as an attorney. A good friend started his own firm a few years back and asked me to join. So, two years ago, I left big law and now I am a partner at a boutique firm at 1717 Penn specializing in privacy, advertising, and e-commerce. Let me know if you are in town, great views!

In my spare time, I try to get out to theater, hang with family and friends, participate in community service and women’s professional groups, and walk/run. Sadly, I lost my dad in 2001 and my brother two years ago at 50, and I do try to remember to take time for fun, family and friends and to “do” rather than say “I wish I did.” In that vein, one of my favorite times of the last year was taking my mom (huge Sox fan) to Fenway for Game 2 of the World Series 2013. Sox lost that one, but won the Series and it was so special to be there with my mom. I still get up to Boston a lot to visit family and friends.

Looking forward to seeing everyone and hope you’ve all been well.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

1. You don’t have to do all the reserve reading - go out and have more fun!
2. This crew thing is crazy but you and your teammates are leaving a legacy. And you can sleep when you’re old.
3. You will meet friends for life here, and even find a husband. How productive!
4. You will learn how to think, write, and analyze, which will propel you forward and also carry you through many challenging circumstances.
5. You will end up living next to two French families in Virginia of all places so your French will actually come in handy!
Life since Brandeis...

It has been a good journey since we bid farewell to college. I attended Emory University School of Law and graduated in 1992. I decided to pursue a career in civil litigation. This led to joining AIG as a staff attorney in 1999, where I remain today. I also serve on the Board of the Defense Association of New York. The business aspect of my life is rather intense, but I really relish it.

I got married in 1999. My wife is Paulette Corsair, a fine artist. After several years of Manhattan life, we spread into two homes, in South Carolina and Brooklyn. Now we are grateful to live in Southampton (Long Island) and Brooklyn. I find the combination of country and urban living to be very fulfilling.

I’m pleased to have stayed in touch with numerous classmates of ours. In retrospect, Brandeis enabled lasting friendships, and prepared us well to live the balance of our years. I look forward to catching up with more of you, and trust that our connections will persist. - Brad C

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would arrive on a Saturday night in early Spring 1989. While I enjoyed every semester, the college experience for me was a gradual positive trend, and the finish was best. Frankly, I would not want to say anything that might alter my destiny. I would just tell myself to keep up the hard work and good times.
Life since Brandeis...

I wish I had an exciting story, but unfortunately I do not. I am single and currently reside in Metuchen, in Central New Jersey. I work as an insurance adjuster at AIG, handling Environmental claims. I have been there for about ten years. Before that, I worked at a law firm on Long Island. I graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 1993, so I just recently had my 20th reunion from there.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would tell myself not to always be afraid of making mistakes, both in classes and socially. The world won’t come to an end.
Life since Brandeis...
I married Brian Dorlester ’87 in 1991 on the Brandeis campus and we lived in the Boston area for a few years. I attended UMass Amherst for grad school and after that was hired to work as a land use planner for the Fairfax County, Virginia government. Brian and I have been living and working in the Washington, DC area for almost 20 years. We have two teenage sons and are actively involved in the Northern VA Jewish community. While I continue to work as a local government planner, I am trying to find time to pursue my lifelong dream of becoming a novelist.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
I would tell myself to be an English major! I now know that reading and writing fiction is my true passion. I wish I’d been more aware of it back then.
Life since Brandeis...

Right after graduation, I married Peter Durham (Harvard ’89) and we moved to the Seattle area, and are still living in (and loving) the Pacific Northwest. I got my MSW in 1993 from University of Washington. Over the years, I have been a medical social worker (specializing in serving families facing chronic and/or terminal illness), a childbirth educator, doula, lactation consultant, and parent educator. I currently teach breastfeeding and newborn care classes to expectant families, and teach parenting classes to parents of toddlers. I am a co-author of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Newborn and Simple Guide to Having a Baby and publish a blog about child development: http://bellevuetoddlers.wordpress.com.

Peter and I have three kids: Amelia is a sophomore at Oberlin College, majoring in theatre. Izzi is a junior at Eastside Prep, a school which I helped found 10 years ago, which now serves 320 kids in grades 5 - 12. Ben is not yet ready for preschool, but having a great time in dance classes, nature exploration, and memorizing the planets. (Yes, our kids are age 20, 17, and 3. We like parenting so much, we decided we wanted to start all over again....)
Life since Brandeis...

I have had at least three careers since leaving Brandeis from teacher to PR person to writer/collaborator, all of them fun, none of them lucrative. I stick around in a job just to the point where people are about to be sick of me but since I work for myself now that has led to several schizophrenic breaks. I still love to talk about food and eat and base almost every day and every trip I go on around what/where we will eat. If you told me I would be living in Worcester, Massachusetts when I was at Brandeis, I would have laughed and then vomited. (Now it’s practically a Boston bedroom community; been here 10 years!)

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Life since Brandeis...

I have been married to my wife, Missy, for 16 years. We have three children: a thirteen year old boy who recently had his bar mitzvah, a ten year old daughter, and a six year old son. We live in Syosset, NY. I have been teaching math for over twenty years and my wife teaches fifth grade. During the summers, I am an Assistant Director at a day camp. Life is good!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would go back to when I decided to be an economics major for a semester and stop it from ever happening. I was much happier after I put it behind me. Otherwise, I did enjoy every minute of Brandeis and there is not much that I would want to change.
Karen Roller Edelstein

Life since Brandeis...

Soon after graduation, I started working for an actuarial consulting firm. I was there for over 10 years working as an actuarial assistant, survey specialist, and, finally, as a health & welfare consultant. I continued my education in the evenings through the actuarial exam track but then changed course and completed my MBA in Finance at Fordham University.

I then became a Corporate Benefits Manager for Symbol Technologies on Long Island. I loved this job. I managed the 401(k), stock purchase plan, medical, dental, vision and other welfare plans. However, where the true job love came, was through advocacy of our associates. I represented them against the insurance companies, supported them through serious illness, and helped to coordinate their care.

Personally, I settled back in NY after graduation. Long Island continues to be my home. In 1990, I went on a blind date that still has not ended. I got married in 1995 to Andrew. In 2004, we had Rachel Carolyn. She is our amazing girl! My full-life job is wife, mom, volunteer and advocate. I would not trade where I am right now.

I wish much love, health, and happiness to my former Brandeis classmates.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Laugh more, Explore more, Dance more!
Rhonda J. Cohen Eiger

Life since Brandeis...

I went to law school at American University and got my JD in May, 1992. I clerked for a judge in Camden, NJ that year and then worked at an insurance defense firm for three years. For the past seventeen years, I have worked as a real estate/estate planning and probate attorney. In May, 1994 my husband, Mark and I were married. In August, 1995 we moved to Manalapan, New Jersey where we still reside. In July, 1996, our oldest daughter, Danielle was born. In August, 2000 our twins, Hannah and Josh were born.

Currently, Danielle is preparing to leave for Cornell University this fall. Hannah and Josh just had their b’nai mitzvah and are preparing for high school. Where does the time go?

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would say, don’t be premed! Not kidding! I’m so glad I switched majors!
Life since Brandeis...

Life has been quite interesting since Brandeis. I was training to be a stockbroker for 2 years on Wall St. but at the end of that road, I could see it was not for me. I then decided to pursue an MBA in Marketing from Wash U in St. Louis. It was my first time out of the Northeast. I was taken aback by complete strangers just saying hi to me as I walked down the street. Housing was extremely affordable and there was just a lot less of a hectic lifestyle. It was not a production if I wanted to go to the zoo or a theater. At Wash U, I met my wife, Michele. She was a University of Michigan grad and a diehard Go Blue football fan. Going to her school in Ann Arbor was a little different than my experience at Brandeis. Division 3 soccer vs. Big 10 football. Michele was from Milwaukee, and being from NY, I figured what’s the difference between St. Louis and Milwaukee.

Well, I still live in Milwaukee today and it’s a relatively unknown gem in the Midwest. Lots of great sports teams, museums, parks, zoos, lakes, parks, etc. My first cool job was as a product manager at a local, family run meat company, Klement’s Sausage. If you have ever seen the Milwaukee Brewers racing sausages on TV, that was the company. I even dressed up as a sausage for different events. It was hilarious. From there I worked at a larger company, John Morrell, division of Smithfield Foods, in Cincinnati for 2 years. I was moving up the flagpole in the meat business, but Michele’s family was in Milwaukee. Two years later I returned to Milwaukee with a job at GE Healthcare. I like to think I came full circle - in the meat industry promoting products that put people in the hospital, and then in the healthcare field, helping people once they got to the hospital. I worked my way up at GE over 6 years, but I wanted a new challenge of running my own business. So in 2006 I bought a Relax The Back franchise, and in 2009 was a Franchisee of the Year. This is a specialty retail store of a 100 store chain that sells products to help people with neck and back pain. That’s been fun and has enabled me to have a more balanced life to spend with my family.

Besides Michele, my wife of 20 years, we have Zachary (15), Molly (12), and Alex (8), along with Boomer (4) our playful Australian Labradoodle. I can go on for hours about them. Fun, amazing, action packed children.

For fun, I have gotten into running, fitness, fishing, camping, and nutrition, as well as travel. We have been to some interesting places like Montana, Rhode Island, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. At the end of June we will be going on an Alaskan cruise, and in a few years we will venture off to Israel.

I admit I have not been the best at keeping in touch, but I look forward to seeing you all at the re-union and re-kindle our friendships.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would arrive on the first day of school Freshman Year and say - be the best you can be at whatever you choose. Have fun. Appreciate all your family and friends and live life to the fullest. Have no regrets.
Life since Brandeis...


I worked as a commercial litigator at a mid-size Manhattan firm for many years. I made partner in 2005 and then left to start my own firm in 2008.
Life since Brandeis...

I live in Summit, New Jersey with my husband Andy Kaplan '87 and our two sets of twins: Zachary and Micaela (17 yrs old, HS Jrs), Daniel and Shayna (14 yrs old, 8th graders).
Life since Brandeis...

I can’t believe it has been 25 years since graduation. David and I married in 1991. I graduated Boston University School of Medicine in 1993. We moved to Providence for several years where I completed a residency in pediatrics while David pursued graduate studies. Our oldest, Emily, was born in Providence in 1995. We returned to the Boston area in 1996 for my fellowship training. Shira came along in 1999, and Jonathan in 2003. We moved to our home in Needham in 2004 when we outgrew our two bedroom condo in Brookline.

I enjoy keeping in close touch with several close Brandeis friends from classes of ‘89 and ‘90. We are active in synagogue life and enjoy close family ties with our extended families. We meander back onto the Brandeis campus from time to time, watching it bubble with activity - we are certainly proud to be Brandeis alum. Best wishes to all my classmates. Stay in touch on social media, etc.
Life since Brandeis...

Hi fellow Brandeisians Class of 89:

It has been a long time. The summer after graduation, I traveled to Bolivia (South America) to pursue my interest in economic development. Instead of finding a career, however, I did meet the man who would become (and still is) my husband, Marco. We’ve been together in the U.S. since August 1991.

We’ve lived now in almost every region of the country, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Mid-West, West Coast and now call Houston, Texas home.

We have two beautiful children. Our son Max is 14 and our daughter Sara is 12. Rex, our youngest, is an active and friendly boxer. Max is a video game fanatic and also enjoys boy scouts and running. Sara is into soccer and art. Unfortunately, no one in the house wants to be on swim team :( Marco loves soccer, playing and watching and will likely spend all of his free time this July watching the World Cup.

Professionally, the last 17 years I have been consulting on matters of cross-border taxation for U.S. multinationals with foreign operations and foreign parented groups with US operations. I’ve worked at law firms, industry and the accounting firms. In May 2013, I joined Grant Thornton LLP in Houston, Texas. I love what I do as is a good mix of business, policy and international affairs.

I’d love to catch up with all my Brandeis friends, whether you are the reunion or not. Please contact me!

Cheers, Lisa

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would have arrived during my semester in Spain and talked myself into sticking it out for the whole year. Also, I would have told myself to chill out a bit more and enjoy every moment. I wish I could actually go back to college!
Michelle Fiddler

Life since Brandeis...

When we graduated I had a very clear vision for how the rest of my life would unfold. Needless to say, my life today looks nothing like that clear vision (thank goodness). I’ve been blessed with many personal and professional accomplishments, but my favorite thing in the world is being Presley’s mom.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Dear Younger Self, you may not believe me now, but I promise you this - it’s OK to fail. Well, try not to fail any of your classes, but in life, please go ahead and fail. Failure means you’ve taken a risk. Try something out of your comfort zone. Test the waters. I swear you will learn more from your failures than your successes. I also promise that you will not shrivel up and disappear if you fail. You will move forward smarter and stronger than before. I know you think I’m talking crazy-talk right now, but I can’t wait for the day you realize I’m right. XOXO - 25th Reunion Self
Life since Brandeis...

After graduation, I went to SUNY Syracuse for Medical School, then did a Pediatrics Residency and Chief Residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. Since then I have been a Pediatrician in Bergen County New Jersey. I've also done some work as a medical consultant for some children's television programs.

It was at Syracuse that I began dating my future wife Jessica. We were married in 1993. We have three great boys (Alex and Ben are 16 year old twins, and Jason is 11). They keep us busy with sports teams year round.
Sandy Florman

Life since Brandeis...

Made it through medical school (University of Louisville - home!), General Surgery residency (Tulane) and Transplant fellowship (Mount Sinai). Got lucky and met/married Toby and had 3 kids (Zachary, Frankie, and Eric). Moved back to New Orleans, stuck it out through Katrina and moved back to New York 4 years ago.
Life since Brandeis...

I live in a wonderful community in Sharon, MA with my wife and three kids. Rachel is 14, Sam is 11 and Emily is 9. We are very involved in our synagogue and various kids’ sports leagues. One of the most rewarding things in my life is coaching my kids in baseball, softball and basketball.

Some of my closest friends at Brandeis remain some of my closest friends 25 years later, including Stu Kolinsky, Joe Ellner and Howie Elman, three of my roommates from Mod F29.

I keep in touch with many others from Brandeis, and see several in Sharon quite frequently. It's really cool to see my son and Steve Simons' son become such good friends.

After majoring in Economics at Brandeis, I continued my studies at the S.C. Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University, and have held many different Finance roles throughout my career. Brandeis taught me how to think critically and develop the analysis and communication skills that have been essential in both my career and volunteer opportunities.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would arrive during my freshman year, probably on the first day, and tell myself that majoring in Math was a bad idea, and that I should switch to Economics immediately.
Douglas Fuchs

Life since Brandeis...

1986 was the year in which I decided to choose law enforcement as a career. While many around me had wished that I simply chose, "law" and left the enforcement part to others - it was my passion and I followed it. Who would have thought that 12 years later I'd be in my cruiser driving down the Westside Highway towards where the towers had once stood or just last year in my own town - headed to Sandy Hook. Policing has come a long ways since I first signed on. This past year I have certainly been exposed to things I would have never expected back in 1989. As I continue to speak around the country I am always asked the question to which, heretofore, I haven't ever found just the right answer, "How are you guys doing [in the wake of Sandy Hook] - and what can we do". And while I could easily answer that in a number of ways...We're healing or this is our new normal (which has been the favorite response) ...a local author has phrased it perfectly now for me - it is our Reality [now] Rearranged. And as for the, "what can I do" question...My answer has been steadfast throughout - Don't stand on the sidelines as this cannot be the new paradigm which our society recognizes. Acts of kindness should not be something you do - but who you are. I have been a police officer now for 26 years. I can honestly say that there is not much that I haven’t seen or heard in that amount of time. All of us in emergency services find a place within us, not easily accessible, to store those events and experiences that are part of our world and hopefully not a part of yours. None of us have quite yet figured out where this one is going. My daughter, Rachael, posted something on Facebook the day after [12-14-12] which I have shared virtually everywhere I have gone - in training - conferences - even had the President read it - amazingly enough what she said on the 15th is exactly what most of us concluded so many months later - Her words: SHS - we called it our home at one point. It was safe. I wish I could go back to this more than anything.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
I can do what on my handheld mobile device????
Life since Brandeis...
   My life at Brandeis was wonderful and left me with an amazing education and the best friends of a lifetime!!!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
   Change nothing!!!
Life since Brandeis...

“I reserve the right to change my mind at any time...” This philosophy has led us on numerous adventures as a family. My wife Lauren and I are the proud parents of Rebecca (Junior at Boston University), Danielle (Freshman at Lesley University) and Adam (5th Grade).

After Brandeis, I briefly attended Cornell Medical School before taking a year off that turned into a 12-year career leading a textiles business. When it was time for new challenges, Lauren and I took our daughters to Ann Arbor, MI where I earned my MBA at the University of Michigan. Soon after Adam was born we moved to Minneapolis, MN where I worked for the medical device manufacturer Medtronic. We had three great years there; however, the pull of the East Coast and push of the cold winter was too much to overcome. We settled in the suburbs of Philadelphia over 7-years ago. I have worked as a consultant around issues related to patient access to therapies and managed care for 8 years and now serve as SVP of Business Development at Zitter Health Insights.

This brief timeline summarizes headlines but does not begin to describe the life lived. I feel grateful for what I learned at Brandeis. Who knew that approaches for solving Mrs. Dudek’s General Chemistry problem sets would be useful in the textile world? Or, that I would refer to the Survey of Western Architecture class I took as a second semester senior year more often than my science classes? I learned so much about myself from my friends and living up to the tradition of Louis D himself. Service is an important part of my/our life too. I am proud to have interviewed hopeful Brandeis students in every state I lived. I rode my bike 160 miles to raise money for the National MS Society this past Fall.

I wish good health and happiness to the Class of ’89.
Life since Brandeis...

Alan and I live in Needham with our 3 children, Sabrina, 11, Daniel, 9, and Isabella, 3. He coaches soccer, basketball and baseball while serving on many boards while maintaining a medical practice 1 mile from our home and serves as secretary of the staff at Newton Wellesley Hospital. We are busy going to Sabrina’s dance competitions, Daniel’s hockey games and Isabella’s tennis lessons. We enjoy keeping in touch with our friends from Brandeis and are looking forward to the reunion!
Elaine B. Goldberg

Life since Brandeis...
Life has been an adventure with many blessings and challenges. My husband and 2 boys and my work keep me busy and fulfilled. I love to visit Brandeis and, by the time the reunion happens, will have celebrated my older boy’s Bar Mitzvah on campus in April.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
I wouldn’t change a thing, maybe just remind myself to be grateful for it and live every moment fully.
Life since Brandeis...
I left Brandeis early after Sophomore year after I was not able to kick the serious case of senioritis that I became infected with in high school. For the next ten years, I was kind of a modern hobo, bouncing around the country with crazy jobs such as working in Hollywood, driving a taxi, managing a car rental company and finally managing a homeless shelter. This helped me narrow my focus and I decided to fuse my love of history and working with young people to become a high school social studies teacher. This is my 15th year in the classroom and I love teaching. I am also finishing my second masters degree at Wesleyan University. I live in West Hartford, CT with my wife and son and I’m looking forward to visiting and keeping in touch with old friends from Brandeis.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
If I could go back and talk to my pre-Brandeis self, I would say to take a year off before starting school to live on my own, work and travel, so that when I entered as a Freshman that I would be more serious about what I wanted to study. I would also tell myself to invest in Apple and Microsoft.
Ellen Goodman

Life since Brandeis...

After living in Boston for 7 years and working in grants administration at MIT and Massachusetts General Hospital, I relocated to Chicago in 2007. After 15 years of being transient I’m finally decided where I want to settle down. I am the grants administrator for the Department of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics at Loyola University Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine in Maywood, IL. I am active in the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) and have attended several conferences.

I live with my boyfriend and 2 cats in the Streeterville neighborhood in the heart of the city and I love it here. Chicago is a great city. We don’t have a car--walk or take public transportation everywhere.

In my spare time I am on the planning committee for Limmud Chicago annual conference and have met wonderful people through this international organization. I am also involved with several meetup groups. I take advantage of the cultural opportunities in Chicago as much as possible--dance, theater, comedy, improv, the abundance of museums. Also the fantastic restaurants. Learning the history of this city and the midwest has been like going to college all over again--it’s a whole different culture.

It took a while to figure out what I wanted to do with my life, but discovering research administration has been a good match for my interests--combining public sector, higher education, writing, and the most important skill I learned at Brandeis--working against a deadline!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Senior year before 1st semester finals--don’t blow off the month winter vacation, get an internship for 2nd semester and look for a job!
Jeffrey A. Gordon, MD

Life since Brandeis...

I am currently in private practice in Connecticut as a Hematology-Oncology physician. I am the proud father of a 10-year old boy, who keeps my wife and I active and enjoying life. I am also an elected official in my town, serving as Chair of my town’s Planning and Zoning Commission.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Enjoy college as much as you did the first time you went!
Barbra Gorvine (Glaser)

Life since Brandeis...
Attached are a few of my favorite photos: my and Jeff’s wedding in August 2009; our family holiday card in December 2012; our 2-year old daughter Georgie with Minnie Mouse during our October 2013 vacation in Disney World; and me with Georgie at her school’s holiday party in December 2013.
Life since Brandeis...

Since leaving Brandeis, I worked for a year as a copywriter at a tiny ad agency in Glastonbury, CT, I did off-off Broadway tiny theater productions in which I sometimes acted, directed, produced and wrote. I went to a tiny grad program for creative writing at BU that was kinda great where I studied fiction writing and playwriting, I started (with a partner) a school for creative writing in NYC called Gotham Writers’ Workshop, I moved from NY to LA 14 years ago and have been writing for hour drama tv shows for the last ten years. And I go married to the awesome Jennifer Dominitz and we have two awesome kids. There have been ups and downs, but things are pretty darn good. Lately, I have been feeling nostalgic about Brandeis and hoping to make the 25th reunion.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Wow. Crazy question. I think I’d arrive on day one and just watch and see if it’s like I remember. But I wouldn’t want to disrupt my space time continuum. I’d follow the prime directive on this one.
Life since Brandeis...
Brandeis 25 years ago wow!

After leaving Brandeis, I got an MBA and then went on to work for IBM, as a Senior Management Consultant. My husband, Jerry, and I have been married for 13 years. We have 4 lovely children: Naomi, Daniella, Judianna and Judah. We all love to travel, explore new places, and eat international cuisine. Last year, we went to Italy and visited: Milan, Venice, and Rome. I still have family in India and visit periodically - while there we take side trips to get glimpses of wild tigers and elephants too!

I look forward to seeing you all and catching up at the reunion in June.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Work hard, have fun, meet new people, and make friends!
Alexandra ("Sandi") Gubin

Life since Brandeis...

After graduation, I worked in public health before obtaining a Ph.D. in social psychology; I did work in post-genocide Rwanda in a program promoting healing and reconciliation. As a sideline, I teach ESL to recent immigrants. Along the way I met and married a wonderful guy with whom I am raising two amazing children, Eliana (5) and Adam (7). We live in Belmont, MA (just a town over from Waltham) with a big goofy black Lab. Currently I do program evaluation for non-profits, helping them to determine if they are meeting their goals.

A comparison between 1989 and 2014 for me:

Then:
Loved the people I met in college.
Was passionate about changing the world.
Couldn’t eat any Asian food following a regrettable encounter with cheap Chinese food.
Vegetarian and proud of it.
Loved singing.
Straight hair.
Younger.

Now:
Love the people I met in college.
Am still passionate about changing the world.
Love all kinds of food.
Vegetarian (perhaps the last “surviving” one from the Brandeis Vegetarian Club).
Still love singing (hey, it’s how I met my husband).
Curly hair (I blew it dry from age 13 to age 23 and only discovered it was curly after I graduated).
Wiser.
If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

“Hello....Hello McFly anyone home?”
Life since Brandeis...

When I graduated from Brandeis, I was not sure where life would take me. I decided to apply to grad school and via an NYU program in Madrid, Spain and NYC, I earned a Master’s in Hispanic Civilization. While in NYC, I worked on the 100th floor of the World Trade Center (watching it fall in 2001 was devastating). I left NYC and the adolescent 40 something men I worked for to teach Spanish, English and Math at a small private school in Colorado Springs. I met my husband at work and we have been together ever since (20 years now!). We have two kids, Sarah (14) and Sam (12), who keep us both on our toes. Neither play softball or baseball, but both are tremendous athletes and musicians as well as darned good students. Professionally I have worked as a teacher to all ages, an Education Program Specialist at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and as tutor of just about all subjects to just about all aged kids with Learning Differences. Given my propensity for being an editor and good listener as a bartender at the Stein, this career path was surprising, but not. I have kept in touch with many of our classmates as well as the other folks who made such an impact on me during my Brandeis years. Facebook has put me back in touch with many folks I had not talked to in forever, and I am grateful to be reconnected. I miss the East coast and city life tremendously, but my hubby is a Mid-Westerner who looks like a deer in the headlights when we visit places like Times Square. Nonetheless, I finally learned to ski (even though Jeff Heller never taught me), I’ve got basic Chem down and am a much quieter version of me than I used to be.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Hindsight is 20/20. My first arrival would be in the middle of freshman year when I realized life in G-zang was not for me and say, “You’ll figure it out and you will be happy with the alternate path for you”. Then, I think that I would arrive sophomore year just before that game against Salve Regina when I broke my shoulder. I would say “Don’t slide, you moron!” I would then go to the next summer just before I lifted that huge tray and herniated a disk and say, “Bend your knees, for Pete’s sake!” or “Get Rob to help you with that!” And then, there would be the end of senior year. I would remind myself that I need to thank Prof. Szulkin and Prof. Cooper for believing in me when I did not...
Karen Dolgoff Hasson

Life since Brandeis...

What a complete whirlwind! That went way too fast, yet it seems like yesterday when we arrived on campus for Orientation. Where do I begin? After Brandeis, I spent two years in Japan teaching English, followed by a short stint back in my hometown of Savannah, GA, while applying to graduate schools. I ended up at the American University in Washington, DC and studied International Affairs: Peace and Conflict Resolution. I’ve lived in Maryland, DC and now Virginia, and have spent most of my time working in the nonprofit/association management world. My husband, Mark, and I were blessed with two children, Sarah (11) and Matthew (8). We’ve settled nicely into our Fairfax, VA community and I have the pleasure of seeing some Brandeis alum on a regular basis. It’s been nice reconnecting with the 1989 crew, albeit in most cases via Facebook, but still nice nonetheless!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Good question. Not sure... Hmm... Don’t procrastinate. Still do that. Maybe... Worry less about what others think. Spend more time exploring different hobbies. Spend more time getting to know others outside of your main circle. Visit your parents, grandparents, and siblings more frequently. Savor every minute before the roller coaster ride begins!
Jeffrey Heller

Life since Brandeis...

How fast 25 years have gone. After graduation I stayed in the Boston area (Waltham, Allston and Brookline) working in Cambridge for the Open Software foundation. At various times over those years I was roommates with great Brandeis classmates Alex Skovronek, David Blank and Laurie Hirsch living in Waltham, Allston and Brookline.

Then in the fall of 1993 I relocated to Palo Alto California for a job. California was great, but the job was not. After less than a year the doors were closed (who would have guessed that tractor company Kubota did not know how to run a computer company). After that I joined a couple more Silicon Valley startups, all of which saw the doors close. After that I was looking for a little stability so I joined Silicon Graphics, a computer company that at the time made the world’s best graphics and super computers. I learned a lot there and had a really great time.

Silicon Graphics had a ski team that competed against other companies in the area. Being part of the ski team was a great way to get the company to subsidize skiing and get up the beautiful Lake Tahoe area. On one of those awesome weekends at Squaw Valley I met my wife Lora (a few years later we were married at Squaw Valley in the same place we first met). Lora and I love to travel and visited many places including Bali, Thailand, Hawaii, The Galapagos islands, Fiji, Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Europe. We love to ski, scuba dive and see the sights.

In the fall of 1998 I got an opportunity to join another small company called NetApp that had recently gone public but was still only about 200 people. I am still with the company and now we are more than 12,000! Been a great 15+ years.

In the summer of 2006 my wife and I decided to move to Colorado (my home state) for quality of life reasons. We loved that Colorado was less crowded, homes were larger and skiing was not a 6+ hour drive away. It was a great decision for us and luckily we were both able to continue working for NetApp.

In January of 2008 we had our first and only child Brady. We love how much fun it is having him as a part of our life. At 6 he is now skiing expert slopes. He loves soccer, his friends and riding the school bus.

Professionally I currently I am leading an organization in the office of the CTO at NetApp that focuses on new technologies and technology trends. We are responsible for helping the company see challenges early, taking advantage of changes in technology and incubating new product ideas usually based on those changes. Every day is filled with surprises and challenges.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would to tell myself to take risks and have a great time. Brandeis has a lot of amazing opportunities and you need to look for them and not be afraid to jump in head first!
Life since Brandeis...

I earned a Master's degree in Education from UCLA in 1990, and since then I've worked in the field of education and counseling. I married Kenneth Hittleman in 1992. (I was thrilled that Eilat Gubbay '89 came out to San Diego for my wedding.) We settled in the San Jose area because of Ken's work; he is a software engineer. Our son Ryan was born in 1996 and our daughter Hannah was born in 2000 – so we now have two teenagers! I have worked part-time as an Academic Counselor at Mission College in Santa Clara since my son was born in 1996. I enjoy hiking, reading, and spending time with friends and family. The distance and some family obligations make it too difficult for me to attend the reunion this time. To those of you attending, I wish you a great time and am sorry to miss seeing you.
Life since Brandeis...

Since graduating from Brandeis, I moved to Washington, DC, got a Ph.D. in neuropsychology, and worked at the National Institutes of Health doing neuroscience research for a while. I married my husband, Eric, in 1999, had two perfect kids, Olivia (12) and Aidan (10), and settled in DC as researcher/professor - turned science policy lobbyist. Then, life took an unexpected turn. My husband was asked to open the Beijing office for his law firm. So we signed up and moved our family to China in 2008 for what we thought was an 18-month tour. We have been here for about 5 years.

When we first arrived in Beijing, I felt entirely anonymous which was interesting. I decided this was my chance to try out new things – conquer fears and all that. When I failed, who would know or care? So the first thing I did was take up running. Lung-sapping smog be damned, I was determined to run a 10K. My first race went through Beijing city streets, beginning at Tiananmen Square. I started out pretty slow and then looked to my right at about the 5 K mark and saw a very, very old man. He flashed a nearly toothless grin at me and said, “Jia yo!” which basically means, “c’mon, go!” I’m sure his time was better than mine but at least in that moment I cruised past an 85-year-old guy with a walker (yes, a walker). Jia yo! has become our family’s mantra.

After forcing myself to do heaps of public speaking (another fear to conquer) about neuroscience and education, I took a job as an IB psychology teacher at the Western Academy of Beijing, a fantastic international school here. It’s been an awesome ride that will sadly come to a close after this school year, as our China adventure winds down. We are most likely moving back to the DC area in August 2014. I’m looking forward to reconnecting with many of you when we are back on U.S. soil!
Micki Barnett Jacobs

Life since Brandeis...

It doesn’t seem possible that it has been 25 years since college! In some ways it seems like yesterday.

Keeping in touch with many through Facebook has made me feel like we all just left... when in actuality I now live in California and have one daughter, Madison in high school and my other daughter Alex, in middle school.

I was so happy to share Brandeis with them in October 2010 and walk those familiar paths along with my family. I own my own media buying agency, 4 Bucks Media Inc and my husband, Ron, is a director and producer. We love the life we have created out here on the West Coast but it does seem a long way from Usdan and Massell. Those were wonderful days and great memories!
Life since Brandeis...

After graduating from Brandeis U., I moved to southern California and obtained a MA in Sociology from University of California, Santa Barbara. I left UCSB, and moved to Los Angeles where I worked for the Los Angeles Unified School District as an ESL teacher and elementary school teacher. After working for the District for 8 years, I moved to Tucson, Arizona to obtain a yoga teaching certification and later to Silverthorne, Colorado to enjoy a change of pace. I married and started a family in Napa, California in 2008. Now, I am living outside Portland, Oregon raising my 5 year old son, Jake. His father passed away a couple of years ago.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
“Elisabeth, do a few internships.”
25 years in 594 words. After Brandeis, I spent an amazing 4 years at Cornell studying veterinary medicine. I got my DVM degree in 1993 and married my college boyfriend 2 months later. We started on Long Island for 4 1/2 years which was a great homecoming for me. He was homesick for Boston and we moved to Canton, MA in late 1997. We have two amazing girls, now 16 and 14. Sadly, their dad and I were divorced in 2008.

I love my two full-time jobs, parenting the girls and small animal medicine.

I work in two small animal practices and after almost 21 years, I can appreciate and enjoy the wisdom of experience. I spend fewer nights awake worried about my patients and enjoy helping clients make informed decisions and ensuring that the animals are happy and comfortable. Of course medicine is always changing and more technology is available in treating animals which is wonderful and challenging at the same time. I love that I am learning every day. The job perks are a wagging tail, purr, and good news when I call for an update.

My family all moved from Long Island to New England within a few years. It is great having my sister and best friend only two hours away near Hartford. My parents relocated to the Berkshires and family visits are mini getaways. It is so beautiful out there and brings me back to my amazing summer camp days just a few miles away.

At times I get to wear another hat and help at my Temple as songleader, youth service leader, and substitute “Cantor”. I serve on numerous committees at the Temple and the girls and I volunteer whenever we can.

After years of driving the girls to their activities, I decided that it was time for my own. I started guitar lessons last summer, 30 years after my last guitar lessons. I am 20 years older than my very talented teacher and practicing is a treat and not a chore. The best part is that I get to pick my music exposing him to my preferred genres.

A few years ago, I took up running. For me, it is a great way to exercise anytime and anywhere. I have my music and I go. I am happy with anything that I can do outside; walk, hike, run, bike, canoe, and cross country ski and doing it with family, friends, or my dog is even better. Indoors, I love to dance and Zumba.

Nine years ago, we were between dogs, and my girls wanted a little white fluffy dog. I was a big dog person myself, but somebody asked me to help find a home for her 5 month old Coton de Tulear puppy. I said that I would and after not too much thought, the next morning we had a puppy, Maddie named for his country of origin, Madagascar. It took me two weeks to forgive him for not being a big dog and quickly found him to be the greatest dog ever. He is smart and independent, a great caregiver and babysitter, amazing guard dog, therapist and hero, all in a 17 pound frame.

Twenty-five years later, by way of Ithaca, Westchester, Long Island, and Canton, MA, I find myself spending my days literally down the block from Brandeis. It is definitely not the exact journey that I may have planned but it has made me more courageous, stronger and wiser and left me with a door to open for new beginnings.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

At any point in my four years, I would tell myself that you are doing OK, and on the path you need to be. These are just prerequisites and you may never use this information again. Maybe...try to have more fun because this is the time to do it. Oh...and when those red flags pop up...pay closer attention, they are there for a reason. Nurture your friendships. Those people will be there in your future and you will be able to connect anytime anywhere through the magic of the internet and Facebook.
Life since Brandeis...

My greatest accomplishment since leaving Brandeis is my family. I married my soul mate Sam in 1993, and in 1995 we were blessed to adopt newborn twin boys. My boys, Jacob and Elliott, are now 18 years old and are freshmen in college.

Creating and raising my family has been the most rewarding, exciting, sometimes challenging, but always magical journey I have ever been on. Watching and nurturing my boys change from babies to young men has been the most powerful learning lesson I have ever experienced. Each bump and obstacle along the way has helped to make me a better person.

When I am not kvelling and marveling at my children, I am busy with the career path I have chosen. I received my doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology in 1996 and focused on specializing within the realm of special education preschool.

Currently I am the Psychology Department Head and an administrator at the Hebrew Academy for Special Children in Woodmere, NY. Working with developmentally delayed babies and preschoolers has been incredibly rewarding for me, and my play room/office looks like a toy store. How many people can say they spend their days playing with Barbie dolls and Batman figures, driving around Hotwheels cars, and building with Legos!!

In my “spare time”, I have become involved in youth theater. For the past 10 years I have been producing and costuming youth theater in our community elementary and middle school. We are also very active in our community synagogue, where I have taught kindergarten Sunday School for over 10 years, and lead the Shabbat morning nursery Torah-for-Tots service for over 14 years.

Now that our boys are temporarily out of the home, Sam and I are enjoying this next phase of our adult lives together with skiing, adventure vacations, hiking with our two dogs, gourmet cooking, the list goes on.....

I feel lucky to have my life. Brandeis was, and always will be, a huge influence on my life.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I wouldn’t change a thing. My life and the events that occurred at Brandeis are all a part of who I am today. Like Ebenezer Scrooge in Dickens “A Christmas Carol”, I would merely be a silent observer.
Life since Brandeis...
I can’t believe it has been 25 years!!!!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say? Don’t change a thing!
Stuart Katz

Life since Brandeis...

I have been living and working in Connecticut since graduating from Boston University School of Law in 1992. I chair the Litigation Department at Cohen and Wolf, P.C., a 50 lawyer firm based in Bridgeport, Connecticut. My wife, Marni Smith Katz ’90, is the Development Director at the Westport Arts Center. We have two sons - ages 14 and 9 - who attend school in Woodbridge, Connecticut, where we have lived since 2005. We recently took an incredible family trip to Israel.

My law practice is primarily in the areas of employment-related litigation, advising employers and employees regarding employment agreements, separation agreements, and personnel policies, as well as business litigation. I currently serve on the boards of directors of Camp Ramah in New England and Ezra Academy, and am a past president of my synagogue - Temple Beth Sholom.


If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would tell my college self to invent Facebook.
David Klein

Life since Brandeis...

Brandeis set me on a path I have followed for the last 25 years. My History degree and teacher certification led me to have the desire to teach. Because I am a die-hard Philadelphian, I returned to the Philly area only to find that PA in its infinite wisdom required more classes to be certified. I then graduated from Villanova with a M.A. in Political Science. I have been teaching in middle and high schools for the last 23 years. During that time, because of my wonderful experience with Coach Bill Shipman and the Brandeis Fencing team, I also ran a fencing club in the schools. The coaching of fencing led me in other coaching directions as well coaching for my children.

I have been married for 17 years, with 3 children who are all different, exciting and wonderful. My family is the focus of my life. I have coached baseball, softball, Aikido and gymnastics, guided young musicians and skiers. Together with my wife, we have directed our children to lead an intellectual, physically active, creative and Jewish-oriented life. We have even visited Brandeis to show the kids the old stomping grounds, including the “new” fencing gym, Cholomondely’s and the Castle and Chapel Field. My experiences, successes, failures, proud moments and regrets at Brandeis helped make me who I am. And thus I am very proud to be a graduate of Brandeis University.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would not, because I have no desire to change my present. Since I love my life, my wife and my children, any change in the past would dramatically change the present.
Life since Brandeis...

My favorite (professional) contributions to my little corner of the world are, for the most part, detailed at ScrapDC.org. We’re a thrift store and resource for artists and crafty types, with a street presence in NE DC. Fostering this nonprofit along is such a fun outlet for my creativity, since it never needs to settle in one place for too long. Connecting with people who have embraced our ideas, energies, and -- literally -- tons of art supplies is also tremendously gratifying. For those in the area, drop in, check us out, and say ‘hi’!
Life since Brandeis...

After graduating Brandeis, I received my J.D. degree from Fordham University School of Law in 1992. I practiced law with Hahn & Hessen LLP, a New York law firm, for over ten years, where I practiced commercial finance, secured and unsecured lending and real estate law. In 2004, I decided to make a career change and entered the mortgage business. I am a Senior Mortgage Loan Originator in Manhattan at Mortgage Master Inc., one of the largest privately owned mortgage companies in the United States.

I have lived on West 57th Street in Manhattan since I graduated Brandeis (has anyone else lived in the same place since graduating?). I married my wife Lori in 2004 right before our 15th reunion. We have a 4 year old son Joshua who is just the best kid in the world in every respect (as most of you know from Facebook).

I keep in touch with many friends from Brandeis. In my free time, I still head out to the beach on Long Island almost every weekend during the summer, play a lot of poker, go to most Jets games and several Yankees games and enjoy vacationing and spending time with my family. I am looking forward to an old timer’s wiffle ball game at reunion and perhaps the flying monkey will make an appearance.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would arrive during junior year when I was considering applying to law school and I would tell myself: “Forget the law school applications. Go invent the internet before Al Gore does, buy stock in Yahoo and Apple and don’t sell, use our “freshman meat book” as a basis to create a social networking service before some dudes across the Charles at Harvard get to it, and make a 3D movie about a blue species flying around that most people won’t understand. Oh, and if you see any hair falling out, glue it back on.”
Life since Brandeis...

Hello To My Dear Class of ’89!

I hope you are all doing well. I can’t believe this is our 25th reunion yearbook. I’m happy to report that I’m still living in NYC and playing my flute in various local orchestras, opera companies, solo recitals and in my quintet, PentaWinds. It’s been very rewarding and also time-consuming. As for my personal life, friends and family have been a wonderful source of nourishment; and, after a long career-building “dating hiatus,” I decided to start again.

Let’s see, it looks like I still have 54 lines left—so what else is there to share with you? Some of the things I’m most proud of since leaving Brandeis (in no particular order):

- running—marathons, half marathons, 10ks, 5ks...
- winning an international flute competition
- being a marketing and pr director for a major chamber orchestra
- taking classes with HH Dalai Lama VIV
- traveling to various countries
- surviving an orchestral tour of China
- being a good cook and baker
- seeing my godson/nephew blossom
- learning to meditate

Please know I look forward to being in touch, one way or another. My best and love!

Abbe

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Dear Abbe@18,

Hello from the future. Believe it or not this is your future-self writing to you. The creative forces of Brandeis University have magically granted me the ability to talk to you. I’m in the year 2014 and you are in 1985—Freshmen Week has just begun. Please learn to type ASAP. Don’t wait until after grad school. Your life will be so much easier with that essential skill. Computers are the wave of the future so typing isn’t just for secretaries; it’s a means of survival in this world.

Please learn to be extra-accepting and appreciative of professors/teachers, friends, family and BFs who are kind and loving to you; and, learn to run (not walk) away from people who aren’t nice. Life is too short. As for Brandeis, OMG, I’m so thrilled that you have the opportunity to study at such an esteemed institution. Getting to go to Brandeis is a gift. I know you don’t think that now so please believe me (since I am you). Maximize this once-in-a-lifetime experience by choosing to learn and experience as much as possible—trust me on this. Now is your time to fly so don’t just do what you have to in order to get by...

My love and good wishes to you as I disappear back to the future. xo
Jamie Kudera
Life since Brandeis...

After Brandeis I followed my childhood dream of becoming a rabbi. It was only after leaving Brandeis that I had any idea of how many rabbis received their undergraduate education at our alma mater. I am grateful for inventions post our graduation such as the internet, cellphones and Facebook to help connect and reconnect us and I only wish we had such things when we were undergrads!

I am currently in a doctoral program focused on pastoral counseling as I feel truly honored in my rabbinate to accompany people on sacred journeys intended or not.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

First of all it is surreal that the future date in the movie is already a moment of the past! This, I suppose proves the point that time does indeed go by quickly. If given such an opportunity I would emphasize the importance of creating positive practices such as daily exercise, meditation or prayer. I would try to convince myself to take more risks and realize the amazing freedoms that exist before me. I would tell myself that some of my best friends would be connected to my Brandeis experience and to do what I could to stay in touch. I would also give myself some comfort in the knowledge that one day my very best friend would in fact become the love of my life when I least expected it and that true love is worth waiting for.
Life since Brandeis...

I am still surprised that Brandeis is looking for an essay. Didn’t we graduate a long time ago? Ha ha ha!

I live in Utah and work at the Huntsman Cancer Institute. I became a pediatric oncologist, but these days my focus is running a research lab that is striving to develop new therapies for a particular type of pediatric bone tumor (called Ewing sarcoma).

I am married, and have three amazing kids. We never thought we would have ended up in Utah, but to be honest, it’s a great life here! We ski, ride mountain bikes, hike, camp, etc. Plus, the traffic is much better than Boston/Waltham traffic!

If anyone finds themselves in Salt Lake City on a ski vacation (or whatever), drop me a line! I’m sad that I couldn’t attend the reunion, but often think fondly back to our Brandeis days!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

You know, you really should be studying instead of goofing off!
Since leaving Brandeis, I spent several years working as a laboratory researcher and then became a science teacher in my thirties. I taught science, mostly biology and chemistry, in middle school and high school. I started working on my Ph.D. in 2001, and gradually moved into teacher education and research.

I earned my Ph.D. in science education in 2008 and I am now on the faculty in the College of Education at the University of Maryland College Park, teaching prospective teachers and doing research on science teaching and learning. I live with my wife Gemma, son Noah, and two dogs, Mars and Zoe, in Takoma Park, MD.
Life since Brandeis...

Since leaving Brandeis I worked in television and jumped on the digital media revolution.
While still a New Yorker at heart, I moved to Washington DC to work at my dream job at Discovery Channel where I started the streaming media group. I had the privilege of producing shows from Egypt, the deck of a fishing ship, Eastern State Penitentiary, and even from a submarine.
I also met my soul mate and was even smart enough to marry her. We now have 2 great daughters and a house full of animals as I attempt to build my own zoo. In my rare spare moments I hike, kayak and teach Hebrew to kids from the former Soviet Union.
In 2011 I got my MBA and this summer I will test for my black belt in Kendo.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
If I had the chance to visit college Rob I would tell him to not be so serious and enjoy life more. Travel, experiences, adventure, friends and family are more important than papers, grades and jobs.
Life since Brandeis...

After graduating from Brandeis I stayed in Boston where I still live with my husband and two kids. I have worked in public relations for the past 18 years and enjoy working with clients in the arts, lifestyle and healthcare industries. It’s been great keeping in touch with Brandeis friends over the years online.
Life since Brandeis...
After Brandeis I went to Philadelphia for a year of grad school, then medical school at Hahnemann. Did my anesthesia residency and pain fellowship at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA. I moved to Norwood, MA and was an attending at Caritas Norwood Hospital for seven years. I am now the assistant chief of anesthesiology at Sturdy Memorial Hospital in Attleboro, MA, and have lived in Walpole for almost 13 years. All of my family live in MA - I have two brothers who are married, a niece five and nephew 11. We all like to get together at my condo in Wells, ME.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
This is just the beginning of many exciting things to happen, and wonderful friends to meet.
Life since Brandeis...

After Brandeis, I canvassed for Greenpeace for a year, before heading out to San Diego for graduate school in sociology. I obtained my PhD at UC San Diego (where I met my future wife, Christie Photinos), and then taught as an adjunct at a series of local colleges and Universities for more than a decade. My teaching and writing focused on issues of race, gender, culture, crime, and violence. In 2011, I started attending UC Irvine’s new law school, where I’ve spent a lot of time working on human rights and civil rights law. Next year, I’ll be working as a clerk for a federal District Court judge in Seattle, before returning to the San Diego area. I graduate this summer, and the need to prepare for the bar exam has caused me to resist the urge to attend our reunion. I’ll really miss the chance to catch up with old friends!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I’m not sure how open to advice my college self would have been, though I’d have liked for him to learn much earlier on that there are some stunningly beautiful places in San Diego, and that it shouldn’t take him years to seek them out. The rest of the life lessons I think he needed to learn at his own pace.
Karen Marks

Life since Brandeis...

Moved to the Netherlands in 1990, married Johannes and have two daughters, Sientje and Seska (ages 18 and 15). Travelled throughout Europe and Asia. Took up running about 8 years ago (great stress reliever!) and have managed to put a few marathons under my name, both locally here in Amsterdam and abroad (Cologne, Ghent). Next one scheduled for Nice (France) in November. Been working with GE/GXS since 1990, now leading the EMEA billing team and heavily involved in global migration projects. GXS was recently acquired by another company so future employment is uncertain right now. Trying to stay positive and focusing on what’s really important - my good health, my family and good friends.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Are you sure this is the right place for you? I don’t think you’re going to really fit in here.
Life since Brandeis...

Living just outside of Washington D.C. in Virginia with my wife (Jenny) and three kids (Claudia, Max, and Tyler). Three young kids can keep you pretty busy with soccer, lax, swimming, scouts, etc. We do a lot of hiking, biking, and just traveling around. I have been working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for 18 years as an Attorney and still really enjoy the work. I definitely look back fondly on my days at Brandeis and remember what a great time it was. I still keep in touch with a few of my invaluable friends and I really enjoy seeing the things that I was a part of on campus, like the crew team and fraternity, continue to thrive.

All the best,
Ed (aka Funky Ed Messina)

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

An asteroid hits the planet in 1998 and causes "Armageddon," so have fun while you can. Or maybe that was a movie. I can’t specifically recall. More importantly those wayfarer sunglasses look ridiculous.
If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would go all the way back to my senior prom to avoid kissing my prom date and getting mono and missing the first 2 weeks of school. Then I would tell my younger self to max out her 401k, wear sunscreen and not to worry so much.
Life since Brandeis...

Seeing my son finishing up his second year in college takes me back to the four years I spent at Brandeis. He has decided on his major, he is complaining about tests and reading assignments. But, at the same time, he is no longer a kid. In High School, my son complained about school all the time. Just last week, he surprised me when he said that he really likes learning and attending classes. When he shares some of his readings in his philosophy and theology classes, he is thinking critically and in ways I never considered.

That is the change I know Brandeis gave to me. The long hours I have spent studying has transferred to long hours at work. I don’t regret the late hours. I think it is the sense of fulfillment that I got from sitting in the library and finishing up a physics assignment (this might sound funny, but I kind of miss that).

I want to thank the reunion committee for organizing these events, even though attending is not always an option. It reconnects me to the friends and classmates I left in 1989.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

If I returned to the summer of 1985, I would find myself working in the mountains of Idaho. I would definitely tell myself to look for summer work that does not involve fighting forest fires. Also, I would advise that I not delay too long the eventual move back to the Northwest.
Life since Brandeis...

I think of my years of college at Brandeis fondly. I arrived in the US at the tender age of 18 from Paris in August of 1985...and due to delays of my flight...missed half of orientation and got the top bunk bed of an unnatural triple room (i.e. very small room and nowhere to sit without climbing to the top bunk bed :) in Reitman. There was a lot to take in...independence, America, studies, friendships, professors (including my wonderful advisor and mentor Peter Conrad), uphills and learning about the Jewish culture!...It prepared me well for my life in New England for quite a number of years...including fascinating graduate studies at the Harvard and then later Hopkins schools of public health. I love living and working in the Maryland/DC area. I work in the area of international public health research and evaluation as an epidemiologist, which takes me all over Africa and Asia. I also initiate collaborations between scientists and institutions globally which is very exciting. It's hard to believe that we have amassed 25 years of life experience...life moves fast but fortunately the memories are there to stay!! Cheers and much love to all my classmates.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would arrive junior year and tell my college self not to move off campus (cafeteria food was way better than humus and pita bread)!; Even better I would arrive sophomore year and select Italy for junior year abroad; take school a little less seriously and have more fun :).
If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Life is a series of twists and turns, don’t be scared and always have confidence that the lessons you learn along the way, both in books and on the street will help you make good decisions. Don’t be reckless but take risks, that is the only way you will grow. Don’t spend too much time worrying about what other people think...later in life you will undoubtedly walk into rooms and worry not if people like you, but if you like them. But, always remember that your actions impact others. Celebrate every chance you get, even if it is just that you got thru the day in one piece. Finally, the best is yet to come. You will have experiences, success and failure that you can’t even fathom...it is all part of a beautiful thing called life. XOXOXO
Joseph Navetta
Life since Brandeis...

I have enjoyed work as a programmer/analyst, tutor, reporter, personal trainer, webmaster, application programmer, advocate for youth, mom, and am working to build a meaningful career using my mid-life law degree. I have become an athlete, nearly finishing the 2013 Boston Marathon and back for more this year. I’ve played soccer, swum countless miles in Walden Pond, and completed two triathlons. I am board president for an emerging non-profit that distributes locally grown produce to the needy.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
You’re not going to believe how this thing turns out.
Life since Brandeis...

How has it been 25 years since we called Brandeis home?! And yet none of us has aged a bit, right? I’ve been married almost 20 years (in October) to a terrific guy and have two wonderful children—a 16 year old daughter and a 13 year old son. We are starting the whole college process with my daughter and I simply hope that she finds as wonderful a home as I did for my college experience. My daughter is artsy and creative. My son is athletic and enjoys learning new languages. We love our life in Westchester and feel blessed to have such good friends and family. In fact, I regularly spend time with my Brandeis girls— as I call them—and am glad we are close enough to get to see each other often. When we are together, it’s as though no time has passed since we were all hanging out at The Stein. The only difference is that our husbands join us these days for many of our get-togethers! I’m active in our synagogue and now have Shabbat dinner with the family every family night—no matter how busy my kids’ social lives are. I treasure that time together. Because now I really do understand how fast life passes us by. So while I’m still in shock that we are 25 years out of college, I have to say life at 46 has been pretty great. I’m looking forward to what the next 25 years will bring!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I’d arrive Freshman year at class registration and tell my younger self to find a class in sports marketing and/or journalism (did Brandeis have those types of classes??) - I’m STILL sorry I never became a sportscaster!
Life since Brandeis...

It has been quite a journey since leaving Brandeis. I first moved to Chicago where I finished medical school and an OB/GYN residency, met and married my wife Candace and added to the family when our daughter Kayla was born. We moved to Cincinnati so my wife could complete her Air Force obligation and I took a full-time faculty job at the University of Cincinnati. After 13 years in Cincinnati we decided to the mountains of Asheville, NC. We feel so fortunate to have found a place where we can be fulfilled professionally and surrounded by beautiful scenery. We still have moments when we say "Oh yeah. We live in the South."

If you could go "Back to the Future" to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Life is a marathon and not a sprint.
Marla Field Olsberg

Life since Brandeis...

Upon graduation, I followed many of my classmates to NYC, where I earned a Masters’ in Education, and really enjoyed city life. I still was not done traveling as I then took off for Israel for 10 months, studying Hebrew and gaining some more experience with learning and living in my favorite place. While I was living in Israel, I met my now husband of 20+ years - we have 3 children and of course a beloved dog. Our kids are 18, 15 and 10, and they make us very proud in the way they interact and contribute to society. It is hard to believe that our oldest child is now heading off to school himself! How can we all be that old?

As Simon, my husband, had left London (to live in Israel), it made sense for us to come back to Boston, and we are both so happy to be settled here - it has the right mix for us of solid educational opportunities, a diverse and accepting population, four distinct seasons (which we make the most of being avid skiers and walkers) as well as the most loyal and engaging sports fans. GO SOX!!! My kids (and husband) all have a false understanding of the value of championship games in professional sports, yet it has been rewarding to share these moments of family excitement!

After teaching happily for 20 years at South Area Solomon Schechter Day School in Stoughton MA, I ventured off on my own into educational consulting -- Last year, my first year, was quite rough -- lots of trial and error! Now I am settled into my new dream job. I am working for the Boston Haifa Connection, which is a subset of Combined Jewish Philanthropies. I am the Project Manager of all the School to School Partnerships we have between Boston and Haifa (over 15!). Our goal is to connect youth from both of these communities in a meaningful and genuine way, enlightening each other to their commonalities, differences and Jewish peoplehood. It is very exciting how these partnerships are affecting our youth on both sides of the ocean. One great perk is that I am sent to Haifa Israel for 10 days every year -- Our family moved to Haifa, just for the summer, four years ago after my own children were involved in a partnership. This was certainly a highlight and established my own connection to Haifa. I feel very lucky to absolutely love my job!

Living in Boston, I do run into other Brandeis Alum, rather frequently -- I am friends with Brandeisians now that I hardly knew while on campus. Just coming from Brandeis forms a sort of glue between us, and we are always excited to catch up and to connect.

Even recently, through work, I ran into a young woman who is a senior at Brandeis (she will have graduated when we receive this!). We spoke Brandeis! Even though our Brandeis experience spans 25 years, we shared a common powerful experience. The buildings, landscape and certainly some of the professors may have changed, yet the innate feelings and life long teachings have remained intact. I am so proud to be a Brandeisian, and I attribute much of my success, happiness and continued growth to my years at Brandies.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would arrive before getting stressed out about finals: I would advise: in the long term your grades won’t have as much of an impact as you think they will right now -- live college life to the fullest, and take every opportunity to experience the gift of your college years!
I have enjoyed these years watching my three children grow up and keep me on top of my game. Raising my children, alongside those of my Brandeis classmates, is a constant reminder of the bonds I made 25 years ago. While the days may seem long, the years are certainly short. I have continued to pursue my professional passions as a child advocate and attorney and recently finished serving six years on my school board. As I begin the college process with my oldest child, I am constantly reminded of the importance that Brandeis played in shaping who I am today.
Life since Brandeis...

I've been happily married to Brandeis Alum Nadine Beck since 1991. We have a son who is finishing his third year in college and a daughter who is finishing her third year in high school. After many years in the Boston area, during which time I completed my PhD studies in Biology at MIT and a postdoctoral fellowship at MGH/Harvard Medical School, we moved to Northern Virginia in 2003. I was a Science Policy Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Nuclear Threat Initiative at the Department of Homeland Security, where I worked on biodefense issues. I then moved to the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation to run its Biological and Chemical Weapons Control Program until 2008. Since 2009 I've been working at Biotechnology Regulatory Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, part of the US Dept of Agriculture.
Life since Brandeis...

After Brandeis I went to Law School at Boston University School of Law where I met the man I would eventually marry. I decided to specialize in Health Care Law and enrolled in the dual degree program with the Boston University School of Public Health. I graduated in May of 1992 with a JD and finished my MPH (Masters in Public Health) in December 1992. I practiced Health Care Law at a law firm in Middletown, New Jersey, Giordano, Halloran and Ciesla, and in 1996 I married my husband, Michael Perlstein, and moved with him to the Philadelphia area. I continued practicing Health Care law at a new law firm, Buchanan Ingersoll in Princeton, New Jersey, until my first child, my daughter Rachel, was born in 1999.

After Rachel was born I went back to work for another year, this time as in house Corporate Counsel at Crozer-Keystone Health System in Springfield, PA until my second daughter, Abigail, was born in 2001. After her birth, with two small children at home I decided to stop practicing law for a while and “retire”. This has now lasted for over 13 years as we are about to celebrate Abigail’s Bat Mitzvah this coming April! During this time my husband and I moved to the burbs of Philly, his home town of Villanova, and we had two more children. My son Leo was born in 2003 and my daughter Emma was born in 2006. Now that all my children are a little older and even my baby is 7 years old, I have just started thinking about going back to work for a job outside of the house where I get monetary payment. Though I have not regretted at all giving up my high powered job as a lawyer, I am ready to move into a new phase of life and see what else I can do.

Though raising my kids has been my primary focus these past many years, I have kept up with some hobbies and activities that I have always enjoyed, and have taken up some new ones too. I have always loved musical theatre and singing, having spent my High School and Brandeis years involved with that. At Brandeis I was a member of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society and was a founding member of the female A Cappella singing group “In Sync” (we came up with that name before the boy band stole it from us). Over the years I sang with a woman’s barbershop chorus, The Valley Forge Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, and I am now singing with a local women’s Jewish Choir. I have performed in musicals at my Synagogue and am a regular in the Purim Shpiel every year. My favorite performing highlight though is when I was cast in the ensemble of Narberth Community Theatre’s production of “Carousel” in 2010 along with my two oldest girls Rachel and Abby. Having the chance to be on stage and perform with my girls is an experience I will always treasure.

I am also very involved with my Synagogue where I currently serve on its Board of Directors as well as on the Board of the Sisterhood in the position of Vice President of Fundraising. Additionally, I am the current Chair of the Youth Committee and a past Chair of the School Committee as well as a past President of the Home and School Association at my Synagogue’s Preschool. In my larger Jewish Community, I have participated in the Women’s Leadership Development Program of Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and I am currently on the Board of Federation’s Center for Jewish Life and Learning.

Finally, I’d like to mention two other areas of interest that I try to pursue as much as I can - the beach and traveling. I am a self-proclaimed beach bum and enjoy going to beaches any time and anywhere. Luckily I married into a family that has a summer house on the Jersey Shore and I go there with my family as much as possible. One of our favorite family activities at the Shore is riding our bicycles along the Boardwalk. We are avid bicycle riders in our family!

As for travel, I have gone on some amazing trips over the past 25 years. One of the most memorable for me is my honeymoon trip to Italy and France with my husband which included a day skiing in the Italian Alps! I mentioned my love of the beach earlier which leads me to another one of my very favorite trips when my husband and I went to St. Barth’s along with three other couples, all good friends of ours, for our 40th birthday celebrations. I believe we hit every beach on that island when we weren’t lounging around the infinity pool overlooking the ocean at our villa. Last but not least on my list of amazing trips is when our family went to Israel in 2009. I had never been to Israel before and it had been a long time dream of mine to go there. I finally got the chance to fulfill my dream and being able to experience Israel with my children, husband, and sister, was one of the most incredible experiences of my life! All my children, even my youngest who was only 3 years old at the time, remember our Israel trip with great fondness and still talk about it. We created memories to last a life time and cannot wait to go back again.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would arrive at Orientation week of Freshman year and tell myself to relax and not put so much pressure on myself. I was overly worried about my decisions back then because I felt like I was making these choices that would decide my whole future and if I chose wrongly then I was doomed. For instance, I agonized over what my concentration should be for what seemed like forever, though of course it wasn’t. I really liked Biology but I didn’t want to go into medicine so I settled on English Literature and guessed what? I loved it! But again I was worried that there was nothing I could do with an English Lit concentration and wondered about what I would do with it after graduating. That little nagging worry was like a small cloud that hung over my head for most of my Brandeis years. Well, of course it all worked out and now I have life experience to know that things always do in the end. So looking back on it I would tell my former self to relax and enjoy the ride.
Life since Brandeis...

I’m currently an Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, doing research on how the immune system functions and how lymphomas develop and might be treated. My wife is a neuroscientist at Hopkins and we have twin girls that keep us busy! After Brandeis, I trained at Harvard Medical School, MIT, and Caltech, before landing in Baltimore. I still feel very lucky to have attended Brandeis in those fabulous years at the end of the ’80s!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I had such a great time at Brandeis, I wouldn’t change a thing, so I’d just leave myself alone and go see some 80’s bands perform in person again.
Life since Brandeis...
Moved to San Francisco just in time for a big earthquake.
Worked in two law firms - didn’t go to law school.
Traveled around Asia and learned how to relax and enjoy life.
Spent ten years at Stanford - got a Ph.D. in History and got married.
Switched careers and began working at Apple.
Had two wonderful boys.
Got divorced.
Left Apple to work with my brother in his intellectual property consulting business - IP Checkups - then returned to Apple.
Found the love of my life.
Got married and now also have a wonderful step daughter.
Loving life with my family in San Francisco.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
Don’t take everything so seriously.
Relax and have more fun.
Wendy Reimer

Life since Brandeis...

I live in Manhattan with my husband and three wonderful daughters, ages 12, 10 and 7. I was a stay-at-home mom for many years and have been very involved at my daughters’ school. I have chaired the school auction and served as Vice-President of the PTA for the past 6 years. Being a Mom is the best thing I have ever done and I would not trade this time at home for anything.

Now that my girls are getting older, I have started my own divorce mediation practice. In my former life, I was a divorce attorney, specializing in custody and visitation, spousal support, child support and property distribution. I believe that mediation is a far better process than litigation and I welcome the opportunity to help families transition to the next phase in their lives.

I miss Brandeis but am still very close to my amazing friends, Hedy Cardozo and Ellen Seidman. We have been through a lot together and I cherish their friendship. I am very excited to catch up with everyone else at Reunion!
Stephanie Gruber Ripps

Life since Brandeis...
I left Brandeis and taught at Special Education schools for two years. I then went to Boston University and did a dual degree program - receiving my Masters degrees in both Education and Social Work. I moved to Manhattan - taught for 3 years in private schools, met my wonderful husband and moved out to Rockland County. We got engaged, married, and bought a house in New City. I taught for three years in the Nyack public school district and received tenure. However, I decided to resign from my position when I had my first baby, and I was home with my kids for 12 years. I have 3 sons - Ethan (13), Adam (11) and Shane (7). They keep me crazy busy and couldn’t be more different from each other. One is a musician, one is an athlete, and one is an artist. My husband is a defense attorney in Suffern, NY and has recently become involved in talent management/entertainment law.

I have done a load of volunteer work - PTA, Synagogue Board of Education, JCC Rockland Board of Directors among others. I finally decided I needed to go back to getting paid for some of the work I do :) I no longer had the desire to teach - education has changed a lot in the past ten years, and I am not sure I believe in the direction it has taken. Sooooo, besides my illustrious career delivering pizzas while at Brandeis, I also taught “aerobics” at a gym in Waltham. I chose to return to that early career path (not the pizzas) and have become certified in group fitness, POUND fitness, and spin. I am teaching great classes at the JCC Rockland and really have found my “Happy Place” for this next phase of my life.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Take advantage of everything the school has to offer. Aside from a short stint on the radio station, playing Lucy in “you’re a good man Charlie Brown” freshman year, and singing in the band “Exit 14” Junior year, I really did NOTHING and was involved in NOTHING. I had great friends and great times, but feel I really could have grown so much more and had a much more meaningful college experience if I would have gotten involved in a group or two.
Life since Brandeis...

I continue to love living in Ithaca, New York. I’ve been teaching for 22 years now and love the blossoming of the children’s minds but struggle with what is happening in Public Education (too much testing! too much standardization! too much push on the kids!) I’m restarting my single life, having just purchased a sweet little house that will serve quite nicely as the empty nest it will shortly be. My son, Noah, is a junior in high school and a lover of anything musical and theatrical. How can it be that we are visiting colleges for his future when college seems like yesterday for me? As many of us are, I’m sure, I’m feeling the “sandwich generation” stresses as I increasingly need to care for and worry about my aging parents, who still live in Boston. I sing in the local community chorus and dance when I can. I was a late bloomer in this regard, but have discovered that I adore bike-riding and do it as often as possible (when weather permits.) I participate in a monthly women’s meditation group with a dear friend and teacher in the Buddhist tradition. I am an active participant in Ithaca’s Reform congregation called Tikkun v’Or. I am grateful to be healthy and to have a wonderful community to live in and love.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

The boyfriend you think the sun rises and sets with will end up not being as much the mensch you think he is. Take more time to be with friends!
Life since Brandeis...

Following law school, I became a real estate finance lawyer in Chicago, where I was born and raised, and married a law school classmate. We have two wonderful sons, the older of which is now in high school and might follow in our Brandeis footsteps. He’ll have a longer commute to school than I did, however, since we’ve relocated to San Francisco and are relieved to no longer need a snow blower and instead enjoy short drives to Napa Valley. We all remain ardent Chicago sports fans, notwithstanding the more successful Bay Area teams, and we cheer for Brandeis from afar.
Life since Brandeis...

Hello fellow Brandeisians! Writing this definitely makes me think that that I've followed the road less traveled. Or maybe I should say the long and winding road! Since graduation, I've lived in Harvard Square, West LA, Chicago, NY, and now Columbus Ohio. I've traveled to Europe several times. Sadly, I lost my parents, first my father and then my mother. I earned my Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. I haven't married but I've been blessed with healthy twins boys. At the printing of this yearbook, Josh and Ilan will be 10 years old. They have always amazed and delighted me--so social, and curious, and fun-loving. They have been deep thinkers since a young age. I love watching them develop and grow and I can’t wait to see the places they’ll go. Being a parent has grounded me and given my life new meaning. When I'm not absorbed in being a mom, I'm a therapist, friend, sister, swing dancer, book lover, and nature lover. I work in private practice with both children and adults. I love my job! It's such an honor to learn people's stories and accompany them on their journeys. As I encourage my clients to do, I try to live my life in the moment, in gratitude, with positivity and hope. I'm sorry that I'm unable to attend the reunion. I did visit the campus two years ago and it was so different! I hope everyone has a great time and please get in touch.
Maureen Ruthazer

Life since Brandeis...
After graduation I remained in the Boston area. After working full time for several years I went to law school, and then was a family law attorney for 5 years. In 2003 my husband and I (Al) decided we were ready for some career changes and bought a franchise called The Little Gym. For the past 11 years I have been the president of two corporations (with over 1100 children attending classes at our businesses each week) which keeps me busy.

Last summer Al and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary in Israel. We have 2 children - a daughter Samantha who is a high school senior, and a son Jake who is a freshman in high school.
Life since Brandeis...

Life after Brandeis is pretty sweet. Married more than 20 years to Laurie Greenwald, ’88, we live in the hills of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, with our two extraordinary, brilliant, and otherwise fabulous children: Ariel (17, artist/singer-songwriter/musician/dancer/alpine skier) and Jonathan (14, soccer player/extreme skier/chess-Halo enthusiast) and, of course, Brady the Wonder Cat. Laurie works from home as a freelance writer and I’m a trial lawyer for past 20 years, the last 11 with Proskauer’s Newark office.

Still love to ski, play softball, and root for the Pats, Penn football, and Devils Hockey.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

Don’t change a thing, brother! Be excellent and party on, Bill and Ted!
Life since Brandeis...

There’s a Joseph Campbell quote that I have come to embrace - “We must be willing to let go of the life we planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us.”

In my 20s - I believed I had so much more control over my life and then my father became ill and died and I began to realize that I had a lot less control.

Life is like that roller coaster ride mentioned in the movie “Parenthood” - I may not know what’s around every corner - but I love my life - it’s surprises and twists and turns. It’s continues to be an incredible ride.

Now in my 40s - I’m divorced but with a great ex-husband who is a wonderful co-parent and dear friend. I have a daughter, Sydney Emma, who’ll be 16 by the time this goes to print. She shares my father’s name, his sense of humor, and a love of 80s alternative music (my ex and I have proper values). She’s a soccer player - Captain of her JV team for two years and also on a club team - with a keen interest in history. As she starts thinking about colleges - we will head up to my Brandeis advisor’s home for a weekend. After 25 years, my advisor/friend remain in touch and try to see each other annually. She and her husband live about an hour away and we love spending the weekend at her home where she shows off her culinary skills and provides college guidance to my daughter. Circle of Life type stuff. Makes my heart glad.

I returned to the DC area in 2000 and it feels like home. I still dream of living in Paris or Buenos Aires for a summer and hope to make that happen.

With my LCSW-C, I manage a program for low-income families that works to break down the non-academic barriers to learning. Though I’m not “in the field” these days - I love providing support and development for a staff of about 80.

My day job provides me the flexibility and the financial security to continue to follow my true passion - acting. I am a professional actor and work in the DC area - mostly on the stage and radio. I’m a company member with Lean & Hungry Theater and Quotidian Theater (that’s recent) and you can check out my website that is a constant state of updating - www.alyssasanders.com.

I remain active with Brandeis’ Alumni Group here in town and work on Arts events. No surprise to anyone I’m sure - Brandeis remains close to my heart and I love reconnecting with folks and helping with reunions and such. So many of you I’ve come to “newly know” and wish we had hung in college. I’m very lucky though to get to know you now.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I don’t know that I would have told her to do anything different. I do know it would be fun to relive those days - if only for a moment. It would be Junior year I would return to for sure. My Senior friends would still be hanging around, the Old Stein would have its last moments, our first time at Head of the Charles, the fresh smell of newly built Ziv. “Just soak up every moment, kid.”
Life since Brandeis...
I am blessed with a wonderful life partner and two extraordinary daughters. My oldest daughter is 18 and in college now. She plans to be a rabbi. My youngest is 4 and plans to be a Teenage Ninja Mutant Turtle. My life path is such that last year we chose a college for one daughter, and this year we are choosing an elementary school for the other. We also have one dog and two cats. In sum, I live in a busy house filled with love and pet hair.

I would never have predicted it, but I live in Minnesota. I miss the ocean and the winters here are too long, but otherwise I like it. I work as a researcher studying social justice issues and evaluating human service programs. The best parts of my job are working with people who are passionate about healing the world and being able to learn about and support their work. In my limited free time, I enjoy art, volunteering, movies, spirituality, and being with family and friends.
Life since Brandeis...

I am a Lead Counsel for Allstate Staff Counsel, and have been doing this for 18 years. I have two wonderful children, Ellen - 11 and Aaron - 8. They are the true joys of my life, and I am eternally grateful for the chance to be a father. In my spare time, I am active with the Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Newburgh, NY and am currently serving a term as 1st Vice President. While life has been hard at times, I am finally learning how to slow it down and take pleasure in the joy it can bring.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I’d arrive the day before orientation and tell myself not to be so damn worried about the future and just enjoy the present. Always worrying about the future means you never really appreciate the joys of the present.
Life since Brandeis...
I am so grateful for the time I spent at Brandeis and for the lifelong friends that I have made. They are some of my best friends and I cannot even imagine my life without them in it. I learned a great deal during my time at Brandeis but the greatest life lesson was to appreciate and cherish those people you hold dear. The friends that you make when you’re young are the fondest of friends and I love you all.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
I would tell my college self to eat less carbs especially at 2:00 am. Just kidding, I would tell her to enjoy every moment because the time you spend at college is fleeting and transitory but incredibly precious. The memories you make during those brief years will last a lifetime.
I’m sure many of us are thinking “How is it possible 25 years have passed since college?” I am actually not thinking that, because I’m still 18 years old at heart. (Nobody tell my kids.) My proudest achievement since leaving Brandeis, aside from my ability to talk and text at the same time, is my family: My husband of 13 years, David, and my children Max, 11, and Sabrina, 9. Ask me about them and I will get annoyingly gushy. You’ve been warned.

I’ve had a great career streak in the world of magazine publishing. I started at Redbook right after college, then worked at Good Housekeeping, YM, Teen People, SELF and Glamour as deputy editor. Four years ago I left full-time work to freelance, and have since done gigs for Martha Stewart Living, Allure, People Stylewatch and Health, among others. I do content projects for websites, too, including Babcenter, Makeup.com and Disney’s BabyZone.

In my so-called spare time I write an award-winning blog, Love That Max, as well as blogs for Parents magazine and Babble. I speak at blogger conferences and media events, and recently participated in a United Nations Foundation symposium in Washington, D.C. on childhood vaccines.

In my other spare time, I run a Girl Scout Brownie troop, go to book (wine) club, work on renovating our 1922 colonial and coordinate as many family trips as we can fit in. We’re hoping to visit England in the near future, and the Galapagos Islands when both kids are at sleepaway camp one of these years. My husband and I enjoy indie movies, sushi dinners, concerts and roaming museums with the kids.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I can see you nervously taking off and putting on your scrunchie as your parents drop you off at school for the first time. You’re not sure what to expect—with your roommate, the workload, the social life, everything. Rest assured, you are in for amazing experiences. You will, for the first time, truly enjoy learning. You will make lifelong friends. You will get involved in incredible volunteer work. You will enjoy a semester away in Italy, and a whirlwind tour of Israel and Europe afterward.

Doing all those papers may seem tedious, but they will sharpen your ability to write quickly and stylishly, not to mention amaze people with your typing speed. They and classwork will turn you into an adept researcher, a skill that will someday come in handy when one of your children needs extra attention. Even that dubious art course will show you how to view the world in a different way. Brandeis will not teach you to cook, but that’s cool because you will become quite the pro at ordering in.

People say college is one of the best times in your life. It is, but you also have much good to look forward to afterward—husband, kids, house, career, the whole shebang. Enjoy every moment. And the wine coolers.
Life since Brandeis...

I left Brandeis with a bachelors in psychology, so what on earth did I expect? I started working in the advertising field. I got my first big girl job as a traffic coordinator for the local cable company in Newton, MA. Even though I needed to waitess part time on the side to make my bills, I got hooked into the field. After only a short time, I moved to NYC and there took a series of jobs again in the advertising field. I worked in traffic, media sales, and media buying. New York was a good time but I really wanted to get back to the Boston area. So after three years, I headed back up to Boston and returned to the cable company only this time I was made the Traffic Supervisor due to my big city experience! I then got promoted to Network Operations Center Supervisor which just meant even more responsibilities and people to oversee. Around this same time, I started dating Paul who was an Engineer for the same company.

Around 1997 my new boss at the cable company wanted to get rid of me and in doing so helped me to get a new job with a startup hardware/software vendor we were working with. I landed a job at SeaChange International as a Technical Trainer. It meant I would travel the world going to customer sites and teaching them how to use our new product. My former boss was an ass and pushed me out the door, but in reality he did me a huge career favor! I loved teaching people and watching how their job skills would expand because of me. I truly traveled to parts of the world I never would have (both for work and then personally on my frequent flyer and hotel points!) and came home with some amazing experiences. I even met up with Brandeis friends when I landed in the right cities. And now that we were not working together daily, Paul proposed and we got married in 1998.

We moved to Amherst, NH in October of 2002. In March of 2003 my first Bernese Mountain Dog, Gastin, came into my life and daughter Amanda joined the family in June. To stay home, I got a new job at a local TV station as the Traffic Manager and started taking classes at Lesley University to get my Masters in Education. I completed my degree in the spring of 2007 and got hired for fall of 2008 by the RSEC Academy to be their sole high school math teacher. The school is a private day school for students with learning and/or emotional disabilities. I am currently in my 6th year and loving it. Teaching is such a great job. As opposed to all the years I spent working to put commercials on TV so that people can go to the bathroom and not miss their shows, I now feel I am doing something that makes a difference.

And then there is that mom job I have...the best one! It has changed me so much more than I ever would have imagined. Amanda is the single most amazing thing that has ever happened to me. She continues to make me proud every day and gets me to do things I can’t believe I do. Like getting a second dog and becoming a cheer mom. Me? Really? For no one but her!

So here’s me. Mom to one great girl and 2 Berners. Wife. Math Teacher. Suburban homeowner. And I’m good with it all. Real good.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would return just before the start of Freshman year and I would tell myself to have more faith and self-confidence. I came to college incredibly naive, inexperienced, sheltered, and having had my parents do way too much for me. I started school as a pre-med biology major. But I was not prepared for all the freedom and partying Brandeis was offering (yes, believe that one or not!). I got caught up in the fun and gave up on the pre-med. Now I feel I let myself choose and quit too easily. I know now that I could have had both. I could have continued having fun and still completed the pre-med requirements. Hey, many of you guys did it! If only I had the self-confidence I could have too.

I have no regrets on the enjoying life, live each day to its fullest, YOLO, etc. type of life I lived in college. My life without being a doctor has worked out just fine and I am happy. It’s just I feel that my young self bailed too early and quit too easily. I was not really prepared for college emotionally. In fact it has taken me years to be comfortable with myself and feel confident in myself. It would be so great to have this self-belief at a MUCH earlier age. I’d love to go back and instill that in my old self. I guess now I will just have to make sure I nurture my own daughter into a strong self-confident young woman.
Life since Brandeis...

After graduation, I attended Brooklyn Law School and practiced law (Elderlaw, Estate Planning, Medicaid Planning, Real Estate and Commercial Litigation) and lived in New York City for ten years. During that time, I got married and in 2002 we had twin daughters, Sara and Sylvia. Shortly after their birth, I took a break from the practice of law, and stayed home to raise our daughters. We moved to New Jersey and were there for a few months when a career opportunity for my husband took us to Silicon Valley. We lived there for 2 1/2 years and decided to come back east and settled on Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The summer before our daughters entered kindergarten, I was looking into taking the North Carolina Bar Exam and go back to work when we were overjoyed to learn we were expecting our son, Zev, who was born in 2008. I stayed home for another year when an opportunity to work remotely in a business/operations role presented itself and I took a position as Director of Operations for an ecommerce business located in San Francisco. When that company was sold in 2013, I moved on and looked for another remote opportunity in online fraud analysis/prevention. In September 2013, I became the Business Development Manager for a company that provides geolocation intelligence and online fraud prevention products. I still work remotely as the company is located in Waltham. I find it incredible that my life has come full circle - back to Waltham after 25 years!
Life since Brandeis...

Where does the time go? College days seem like yesterday and also like 25 years ago! Since leaving Brandeis, I moved to Manhattan and spent most of my time, about 18 years, working at Bloomberg L.P. in broadcast, marketing and sales positions. During this time, I also completed my MBA at New York University Stern School of Business. I picked up and left Manhattan to move out to New Jersey and eventually Yardley, Pennsylvania where I reside presently with my husband Mark, step-son Owen [12] and daughter Sienna [5]. I am now a full-time mother and back to my suburban roots!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

If I could go back in time, I would arrive on the first day of school freshman year and on graduation day to tell myself, “Today is a momentous day. You have so much to learn about life and yourself and you have quite a journey ahead but you will do just fine!”
Life since Brandeis...
   My husband Allen and I live in New York City with our amazing 10 year old twin daughters Hailey and Riley.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
   I would tell myself to enjoy every minute and know that some of the best friends I make will still be my BFF’s 25 years after I graduate! : )
Life since Brandeis...

After college I spent 15 years working in local and regional television. I wrote, produced, directed, shot, and edited a variety of regionally and nationally recognized political and educational programs along with entertainment and sports programming. I was lucky to be able to meet and work with wonderful people and also do some fun traveling.

I got married in 1997, and stopped working when my daughter Rebecca was born in 2004. My son Jonah was born in 2007, and since that time I have enjoyed every minute of being home with them. Besides being with my kids, I oversee the Religious School at my synagogue, volunteer in my kids school and other local non-profit organizations.
Life since Brandeis...

It’s certainly been an interesting and great 25 years since we graduated.


It’s hard to believe that we graduated 25 years ago. While graduation day seems so distant, I still have regular reminders of being at Brandeis, besides a couple of faded sweatshirts in the closet. I live near several classmates, who I see regularly and have children who are friendly with the children of other classmates. While I don’t see people as often as I like to due to distance, I’m glad I’ve been able to stay connected with so many of you (thank you internet!).

Life is very busy these days. Stacey and I have been married 23 + years, and have a family with four wonderful children (19 year old son, 17 year old daughter, and twin 12 year old boys). Our oldest son Matt is in college, our daughter Dana will be heading off to college this fall (as of this writing she still hasn’t finalized her decision), and our twin boys Scott and Kevin are in sixth grade. We’re glad the twins were last, because by the time they arrived we had a couple of other children to practice with and build up our parenting skills. (One of my favorite stories, is that people would say to us “We didn’t know you planned on having four kids”, and my response was... “We didn’t - we were planning on three and got a bonus child thrown in”). Now, I couldn’t imagine our life without twins, and all the happy commotion that goes with having four children.

In addition to my career as Project Manager in Information Systems, I’ve been very involved in our community, serving on the board of a couple local organizations, and coaching sports around the calendar. One of the things that I never expected is that I’d be a soccer coach. (If you know about my soccer career or if you ever saw me play soccer, you would see the irony of this one.)

By the way - my favorite story about unexpectedly running into a classmate? Running into Mike Freeman in the Maternity Department of Newton Wellesley Hospital. Mike’s son and my twin sons were born there a couple days apart, and now go to school together.

When I look back at my time at Brandeis, there are so many lifelong friendships that I began while we were there. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone at the re-union this year, and to continuing to seeing and hearing from you in the upcoming years.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I’d arrive late during my freshman year, while I was in the process of deciding majors. My advice - Don’t major in Psychology you won’t like it that much. Major in History, you really like History (and you’ll get better grades in it than you will in Psychology).

In retrospect History was such an obvious choice of a major for me, I still wonder how I didn’t see it. In the end, it wouldn’t have made much of a difference, because I ended up going into a career in Information Systems.

Part 2 - October 1986. Don’t worry so much about that entire Mets/Bill Buckner/World Series thing. Sure it doesn’t feel so great now, but the 21st century will be a great time to be a Red Sox fan.
Life since Brandeis...

Terry, Adeline, Teva, Spanky, Pooka, Smax, VV, Geronimo, Bubble butt, Window Silly, Jelly Bean, Star, Poppy Seed, Professor. Waltham, West Newton, Hermosa Beach, Lexington, Bethlehem, Upper Black Eddy, Doylestown. Waldorf School and George School. Volkswagens, roller blades, roller hockey, body surfing, dogs and more dogs, knitting, fishing, cabin, Sunday Soccer (on Saturday), Model A, heating systems, T.F.C.E., chopping wood, maple syrup, apple pie, apple picking, the pool, gardening, the farm. DC, Jersey shore, Maryland Sheep and wool, Boston-Boston-Boston, Topsfield Fair, Muir Woods, SF, Santa Rosa, Tar pits, Water Gap. And a thousand other things to be grateful for!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I’d arrive on that warm spring day when we were all gathered outside on the quad lawn. And I’d say: “Despite the fact that you are young and healthy, it really isn’t a good idea to go swimming in Massell pond. You might regret it later.”

I’d also arrive 3 seconds before I passed Rick the flaming torch and he passed it back, and I’d yell “get out of the way, it’s going to hit you in the eye.”

And that morning in the cafeteria - “Don’t eat that, it really is drool on that pancake.”

2AM Sunday night in the computer lab, Freshman year - “It’s the 1643rd line down in the code, 63 characters in, it’s a right parenthesis that’s missing.” Oh boy, that would have saved me so much time...
Life since Brandeis...

Since leaving Brandeis, my life has been filled with joy and adventure. After spending one extra year in Boston (working at a dating service!), I returned to my hometown of St. Louis, to attend Washington University School of Law. I met my husband Robert during my second year of law school, while he was a JAG stationed at Scott Air Force Base. We got married during my third year, and moved to Yokota Air Base in Tokyo almost immediately after I graduated. After spending two years there, we returned to St. Louis, and I began working in my current position, as a permanent law clerk to a federal judge. Our first daughter, Hannah, was born in 1997, and our second, Leah, in 1999. As a family, we enjoy playing games, traveling (all around the world), and being together.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I would tell myself not to worry about the future so much, to enjoy these college days because they are precious.
Life since Brandeis...

Life has been quite a journey since graduation in 1989. I first returned to NYC and joined my father’s company which we sold in January 1997, I then moved to California and lived one year in Malibu and then one year in Santa Monica. I moved in January of 2000 to Miami, where I started a Beauty Company. In 2005 I married Joanna Eidelman from Colombia (who is better than I deserve.). We have three daughters, Daniella (7), Michelle (5) and Alexis (21 months.). In 2012 I sold the majority of my business to a private equity firm and have focused more of my time on my family, charitable endeavors, community service and smelling the roses. I love 7:40am as I drive my two oldest to school and we get 20 minutes of uninterrupted no technology or distractions time together. My wife and I run our charitable foundation and I joined the board of the JCC as part of our commitment to give back. I was still playing basketball until May of 2013 when I tore my Achilles tendon, it was so bad they had to do a graft. I am 95% back, but basketball may finally be over. As most of my friends still can’t get over, I somehow left NYC, got married, had children and didn’t end up in jail, I have to admit I am pretty surprised myself. (To quote one of our classmates, when she heard I was getting married “Someone get me my Ice Skates, because hell must have frozen over. Author BM.) I fondly think back about my time at Brandeis and often remember my father’s words of wisdom when he dropped me off that first day, “Don’t let your schooling get in the way of your education.”

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I won’t get into the whole time continuum issue that I wouldn’t want to do anything that would change my life today. But putting that aside:
1. Don’t take things to seriously.
2. Go into Boston often.
3. Talk to Alyssa Sanders more, she isn’t really Aloof, she is kind of shy.
4. Take all kinds of classes, don’t focus too much, you have time for that later.
5. That the Mets will win the World Series and that betting a month of laundry services with your girlfriend’s roommate is not enough to win.
6. Don’t sleep so much, you can do that later enjoy every moment, this is going to be a special time.
7. Learn Spanish, because one day you might marry a Colombian.
Andrea Molod Soloway

Life since Brandeis...
After I graduated, I moved to New York from my hometown of Philadelphia and shortly thereafter married Todd Soloway, also a Brandeis graduate. We had two children, Danielle and Ethan and we lived in Manhattan for many years. I spent an 18 year career in commercial real estate in New York City, which I loved and once our children were both in elementary school we moved to Armonk, a suburb of Manhattan. Once our oldest child became a young teen, I decided to leave my job and become a full time mom and homemaker, and loved that transition. I now am very active in volunteer work up in Armonk and continue to commute into the city once or twice a week to partake in the wonderful cultural events that are always plentiful. I visit many museums and see lots of shows with very dear friends, Eva Sebestyen, Lori Bring Olbrys, and Gail Oxfeld Kanef, all Brandeis graduates and friends of mine since college. My daughter, Danielle is 20 years old and a sophomore at Cornell University and my son, Ethan, is a high school junior.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
I would arrive Freshman year and say; “Guess what, these girls will be your friends for life!”
Life since Brandeis...

After leaving Brandeis, I attended the Washington College of Law, American University in D.C. and graduated in ‘92. I started my career as an in-house attorney at a small brokerage firm in NJ, and in ‘97, joined a small brokerage firm on Wall Street as Director of Compliance. I then moved to the Upper East Side of NYC, bought a ‘deluxe apartment in the sky’ and spent a number of years commuting down to Wall Street, and joined a larger investment firm as Associate General Counsel. I loved everything NYC had to offer personally and professionally, but working across the street from the World Trade Center, witnessing 9/11 first-hand, and feeling the devastating impact throughout Manhattan and the financial services industry downtown set the wheels in motion to look for a change. A former colleague recruited me to join Deutsche Bank as Deputy Compliance Director for the Private Wealth Management division, but the job was based in Baltimore, where I knew not a soul.

Deciding to at least give it a try, with support from my family and encouragement from my friends, I moved to Baltimore in October ‘02, and met my wonderful husband Steve Susel a mere 6 weeks later. Someone once told me “Change your place, change your luck!” and that proved to be true! I married Steve in September ‘04, we bought a home in ‘05, and welcomed our daughter Sasha in November ‘06. Deutsche Bank transferred me back to NYC the next year, and we spent 2 years in New York, during which time we welcomed our son Zachary in September ‘08. We moved back to our home in Baltimore in June ‘09 in advance of Sasha starting pre-school, and set about settling in, meeting new friends, joining a temple, and all-in-all, becoming part of the community.

I left Deutsche Bank and later joined The Carlyle Group, the global alternative asset management firm headquartered in Washington, D.C., in July ‘10 as Chief Compliance Officer of Carlyle’s broker/dealer affiliate, which I helped establish through the regulatory channels and whose growth and platform expansion I continue to oversee and direct. In my role as CCO and a Principal (Director) at Carlyle, I have the great privilege and good fortune to work with a wonderful group of legal and compliance colleagues, as well as investor relations and investment professionals all over the world, in an intellectually stimulating environment that is constantly evolving as Carlyle develops new products, enters new regions, adapts to the ever-changing regulatory environment, and grows via corporate acquisitions.

Since late 2012, I have served as the President of the Baltimore Chapter of Brandeis Alumni. Admittedly, with my primary focus on family, as well as my career, bandwidth is often stretched and coordinating alumni activities has, more often than not, taken a back seat. I’m cautiously optimistic that our local chapter will gather some momentum, and look forward to being involved with Brandeis at the local level.

I’m truly looking forward to our 25th reunion, and to sharing this experience with my loves Steve, Sasha and Zachary (although they just want me to stop talking about it already!) It’s been great fun catching up with folks on Facebook, and I’m delighted by the prospect of reconnecting with old friends, perhaps even making some new ones, meeting each others’ families, laughing with fondness over nostalgic old times, and looking at all the changes around campus in awe!
Life since Brandeis...

Since Brandeis, I’ve: received two masters degrees; worked in the fields of advertising, marketing, and education; lived in six states and one foreign country (Japan); married an attorney (Robert) who served as a Judge Advocate for the USMC; supported the United States military families as a Department of Defense Dependent Schools middle and high school English teacher; had two beautiful children (Emma and Ben); raised one Portuguese water dog, two pet dumbo rats, and one feisty chinchilla. Currently, I work as a college consultant and writing coach for students embarking on the college application process. I am very happy, love what I do, and wouldn’t change a single thing about my life!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

When you are assigned Bleak House in your Victorian novel class, make sure you read it! It will be the focal point of your final exam. Oh ... wait a minute ... then I wouldn’t have that ever-so-valuable lesson to share with my own children - and my students!

Here’s another thought, I’d let myself know to live in the moment, embrace every experience, and worry less about things that are out of your control.
Life since Brandeis...

After graduating I entered a PhD program at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. I graduated with my degree in Genetics and Biochemistry in 1994. After completing my degree, I joined my fiancee in St. Louis for my post-doctoral fellowship at Washington University at St. Louis Medical School and got married in 1994. It was a whirlwind couple of months - defending, moving and marriage! After completing my post doc we and our young son, Aaron, moved to San Diego. I was a senior scientist at a start up company in La Jolla and then, after our daughter Katy was born I worked as a scientific consultant in a biotechnology IP law firm.

We decided to move back east, as California wasn’t where we really wanted to settle permanently. My husband joined a biotech company in CT developing next generation sequencing technologies and I returned to academia by joining the faculty at Middlesex Community College. I served as faculty and developed a biotechnology and forensic science program and eventually served as chair of the Science and Engineering department.

In the summer of 2012 we moved to Long Island where I now serve as Chair of the Health Sciences department, teaching and running my research lab. I recently presented at a meeting at Cold Spring Harbor and am truly enjoying mentoring undergrad and graduate research students and fitting in administrative work where I can!

Our son is a freshman in college himself and our daughter is a sophomore in high school. As Dr. Kalpana White, back at Brandeis, had posted on the door in her lab: “Time flies whether we are having fun or not!” Happily for us, most of it has been a lot of fun!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I’d go back to freshman year and tell myself that going to class was not optional! And I would have stopped myself from a taking a few easy classes pass/fail- they would have helped my GPA! Most importantly I would have told myself to stop, breathe and take it all in. These will be great years and I should try to remember every moment.
Life since Brandeis...

Probably the biggest thing that’s happened in my life since leaving Brandeis is that 6 1/2 years ago I moved to Denmark to take a job as a scientist in the conservation department of the National Museum of Denmark. In some ways, living here is very easy, but, in others, Danish society is very different from American. Yes, I speak the language, but I’ve also found my American and Jewish communities.

While trying to find a place to watch the Super Bowl, I came across Democrats Abroad, which is a wing of the Democratic Party for Americans living overseas. Mostly we work to make sure that Americans living abroad know that they can vote back in the US and we help them to request absentee ballots. For the last four years, I’ve been on the executive board of the country committee in Denmark, including being Chair for the past year. It’s kind of fun to be a not-very-important American in a tiny country. We get invited to all kinds of events with much-more-important people.

I’ve gotten to travel around Europe for both work and DA. In fact, I was in Kiev last October. It’s really sad to see the hotel we stayed in turned into a casualty center.

Back to happier things. Most of the friends I’ve stayed in touch with over the years, I made at Brandeis. We meet whenever and wherever we can.
Life since Brandeis...

I can’t believe it has been 25 years since we graduated!!! I have had a wonderful life full of strong experiences both personally and professionally. After Brandeis - which I really enjoyed for so many reasons - I got a Masters degree in Journalism from Boston University. Worked as an on camera reporter/anchor for ESPN’s Sports Center; CNN Sports and Telemundo, among others. Also worked as a print journalist for the United Nations (New York) and as a Producer for many networks including Reuters Television (Washington DC). I got married to Ofilio Perez-Balladares first cousin of a former President of Panama Ernesto Perez-Balladares (2000) who actually introduced me to my husband to be. Once married I decided to leave the busy and stressful life of Journalism and decided to open a yoga business which included a studio and a DVD production company (yoga for pregnancy; yoga in Spanish, etc). I still have my Yoga business and I am currently also exploring the field of “Management of Senior Services”. My most amazing experience in the past 25 years has been to become a mother of a wonderful boy, Nathan. He is currently five years old and ready to start Kindergarten in September 2014. He is quite a little man. I got divorced but got back together with my ex husband, “Ofi”, as everyone calls him. I still travel a lot to Peru where I grew up and where my parents live but I am quite used to living in the USA. We live 10 minutes away from DC so if you are around please get in touch! I miss lots of Brandesians and would love to see them again!!

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?

I just came from San Francisco, California where my mom followed me (really!) and stayed with me for three months at our place there meanwhile I took a writing course at Berkeley University where my father studied. I have visited quite a few universities on the west and east coasts, and Brandeis is my favorite. I love the fact that it is small and academically excellent. Having grown up Jewish it feels like home too. I also love Boston, full of universities, thousands of college students and so much to do. Feel very happy to be at Brandeis, excited and can’t wait to start September 1985!!
Rhonda Scagline Wingrove
Life since Brandeis...

Lots of things have happened since Brandeis, with some described here: www.sienhoyee.org. I am editor-in-chiefing the Chinese Journal of International Law (Oxford; SSCI) and you are invited to visit and to contribute papers for review: www.chinesejil.org
Life since Brandeis...

My wife Polly and I are living in Weston FL. I practice personal injury law with my brother. We are the proud parents of triplets (two daughters and a son) age 18, a son age 15, and a son age 5.
Life since Brandeis...
Since leaving Brandeis I have continued my work at Brandeis as Chinese Food Man, completed a Masters Degree in Critical and Creative Thinking, worked for Marriott Hotels, Jones Lang LaSalle Property Management, and completed certification as a Holistic Nutrition Educator.
Also since I left Brandeis I have gotten married, and now have two daughters. My wife, Annemarie, is a Waldorf School teacher. My daughters Sophie and Emilia are 10 and 6 years old.
Also since leaving Brandeis I have completed a number of personal development programs including Landmark Education, The Option Institute Programs, workshops on Love, Intimacy, and Sexuality, as well as much mens’ work.
This year I am starting a new business focused on Health Education and Coaching.
I welcome contact from my fellow classmates. davidrzwicker@yahoo.com or 415-309-5036.

If you could go “Back to the Future” to talk to your college self, when would you arrive and what would you say?
Travel the world while you are still young and single! If you go to work for a big hotel chain you can transfer, travel and have a new job in a new country every 6 months.
Check out the Jewish Renewal Movement especially Congregation Bnai Or of Watertown, go to Dance New England Dance Camp every summer, go Volunteer at the Option Institute and other similar places.
Become a Holistic MD.
Keep training in Uechi Ryu karate your whole life, after you start at Brandeis.
In Memoriam

Let us remember those classmates, who are no longer with us, but will always be a part of us.

Philip M. Bickford
Robert Allen Jewell, Jr.
Tia M. Kaplowitz (Sheri M. Lebowitz)
Laurie R. Kayden
Joy Mazumdar
Nguyen Ngoc Thai
Lori Urov
Lynne S. Urquiola
Peter Weiss