Brandeis establishes all-time fundraising record of $81.3 million

Thanks to the remarkable support of people from around the world who made gifts both large and small, Brandeis established an all-time fundraising record for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

In fiscal year 2006, the University received more than $81.3 million in annual gifts to eclipse the old record of $72.1 million by 13 percent. Additionally, the University received a record $86.5 million in new gift pledges during the year. Brandeis also set single-year records in several giving categories, including alumni ($197.7 million), Reunion ($11.5 million) and online ($196,000).

“This is a testament to the way our alumni, trustees, parents, friends, and members of the National Women’s Committee feel about Brandeis and its future,” said Nancy Winship, P ’10, Brandeis’s senior vice president of institutional advancement. “It’s even more remarkable when you consider the size of our student body and the relative youth of the institution.

“I wanted to thank President Jehuda Reinharz, whose commitment to this institution is unsurpassed. In recent years, many of the leading names in the world of philanthropy have chosen to ‘invest’ in Brandeis, impressed by Jehuda’s visionary leadership, our reputation for academic excellence, and the soundness of the financial management systems that we have in place.”

The gifts will fund a number of critical initiatives, including undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships; endowed professorships for faculty; and construction of the Carl J. Shapiro Science Center.

The gift is part of The Campaign for Brandeis’s bold science initiative, a fundraising effort designed to maintain the University’s leadership in scientific research and teaching through new endowed professorships, student fellowships, and state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. The centerpiece of the initiative is the 175,000-square-foot Carl J. Shapiro Science Center.

“With new law, gifts from IRAs will be tax-free

The new Pension Protection Act provides a unique giving opportunity that can benefit both donors and Brandeis. The new law, which took effect this summer, includes an independent retirement account (IRA) rollover provision for individuals who are at least 70 1/2 years old. It allows donors to transfer up to $100,000 per year to Brandeis (or another qualified charity) directly from their IRA without being required to report it as income for federal tax purposes. The provision is only effective until Dec. 31, 2007, and covers the tax years 2006 and 2007.

“This IRA rollover provision provides a wonderful opportunity for Brandeis supporters to make a gift to the University that allows them to meet both their philanthropic and financial goals,” said Nancy Winship, P ’10, Brandeis’s senior vice president of institutional advancement.

Davis family honors parents with chair for study of neurodegenerative diseases

Moved to action by his father’s struggle with Alzheimer’s disease, Trustee Jonathan G. Davis ’75 and his wife, Margot T., MA ’05, made a $3.5 million gift to establish an endowed chair to study the family of neurodegenerative diseases that threatens to become the nation’s leading public health problem in the 21st century.

The Harold and Bernice Davis Chair in Aging and Neurodegenerative Disease at Brandeis, to be held by biochemistry/chemistry professor Dagmar Ringe, will investigate the process and consequences of aging while seeking answers to the riddles of Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

“These diseases are not only devastating personally to the victims and their families, but, as people live longer, they present a huge public health challenge to our society,” Davis said. “The social cost of caring for people with chronic, debilitating cognitive diseases is enormous. I am confident that, through the work being done at Brandeis, we will make significant contributions in the effort to develop cures for these diseases.”

The gift is part of The Campaign for Brandeis’s bold science initiative, a fundraising effort designed to maintain the University’s leadership in scientific research and teaching through new endowed professorships, student fellowships, and state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. The centerpiece of the initiative is the 175,000-square-foot Carl J. Shapiro Science Center.

“To maintain our preeminent position in the sciences, we must improve our infrastructure and invest in our faculty,” Davis said.
Eleanor (Epstein) Rabb, a longtime supporter of Brandeis whose generosity helped establish the Norman S. and Eleanor E. Rabb School of Continuing Studies and the Rabb Graduate Center, has died at the age of 94.

Mrs. Rabb, who lived in Boston and Palm Beach, Fla., was a member of the Brandeis Board of Fellows. She died on July 16.

Her husband, Norman, was a founding Trustee of Brandeis and served as board chairman from 1961-67. He died in 1997. The Rabbs were married for 63 years.

“Eleanor and Norman were passionate supporters of Brandeis from the very earliest days of the University,” Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz said. “The Rabbs gave generously of their time, energy, and resources in service to the Jewish community and the betterment of the human condition. She will be sorely missed by Brandeis.”

In addition to establishing the School of Continuing Studies and helping launch the Graduate Center with other members of the extended Rabb family, the Rabbs also established the Norman and Eleanor Rabb Endowed Scholarships and the Norman S. Rabb Cross Country Running and Fitness Course at Brandeis.

Mrs. Rabb is survived by two daughters, Hope R. Edison and her husband, Julian, of St. Louis, and Jane M. Rabb of Cambridge; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and her sister.

Contributions may be made to the Rabb School of Continuing Studies, 415 South St., MS 126, Waltham, MA 02454.
Thankful for wonderful education, Alex Barkas ’68 supports sciences

Manny and Sheila Landsman believe Brandeis is on the verge of major scientific breakthroughs

Keeping Brandeis at the forefront of scientific research and teaching

Grateful for the high-quality science education he received at Brandeis and dedicated to ensuring the University maintains its position as a leader in teaching and research, Alex Barkas ’68 made a $1 million gift to Brandeis, most of which will support the Campaign for Brandeis’s science initiative.

The unrestricted gift from Barkas and his wife, Lynda Wijcik, will help provide crucial support for the science initiative’s key priorities — the 175,000-square-foot Carl J. Shapiro Science Center, graduate student fellowships, faculty chairs, and cutting-edge equipment — to keep Brandeis at the forefront of scientific research and teaching well into the 21st century.

“With the science initiative, we now have in place a plan to completely update and reinvigorate the infrastructure of the sciences at Brandeis,” said Barkas, a California health-care venture capitalist. “Brandeis is well-positioned to continue to make important research breakthroughs and train the next generation of leading scientists.”

As chair of the Brandeis Science Advisory Council for the last several years, Barkas has worked closely with the Brandeis administration and faculty in a number of areas, including the revitalization of the technology transfer function, an assessment of academic programs, and the development of a model for future teaching and research.

“I am committed to Brandeis for what it stands for and appreciative of the quality of the education I received, which has stood me in good stead in my professional life,” Barkas said.

A portion of the Barkas/Wijcik gift will help fund the Student Committee for The Rose Art Museum. They have also generously supported the International Business School and The Village residential complex.

Barkas, who earned his doctorate from New York University, serves as a managing director of Prospect Venture Partners.

In the background is the architect’s rendering of the interior of the 175,000-square-foot Carl J. Shapiro Science Center, the centerpiece of The Campaign for Brandeis’s science initiative.

Supporting the next generation of leading scientists, Brandeis University has received a $2.5 million gift from Manny Landsman and his wife, Sheila, to support the sciences at the University.

“The Landsmans’ gift for the sciences has inspired others to support the initiative, which seeks to maintain Brandeis’s leading position in scientific research and teaching into the next century through construction of a new science complex, funding of additional endowed fellowships and faculty chairs, and purchase of state-of-the-art equipment.”

Since 2000, Landsman has served as a member of the Brandeis Science Advisory Council, which provides important guidance and support to the sciences at the University.

“I have long had a very good feeling about the direction of the sciences at Brandeis,” Landsman said. “I have been impressed with the quality of the faculty and the work being done at Brandeis, and I am so pleased with the University’s commitment to the sciences.”

In 1981, Landsman co-founded American Power Conversion, which developed uninterruptible power supply (UPS) devices for computers. The Rhode Island-based company has grown to a 6,000-employee firm with more than $2 billion in annual sales.

In recent years, the Landsmans established the Landsman Charitable Foundation Endowed Scholarship at Brandeis and provided funding for the Office of Technology Licensing, which manages the patenting, licensing, trademarking, and copyrighting of intellectual property developed at the University.

Trusted Morton Ginsberg ’56 sees great promise in Brandeis research

Ginsberg learned about the interdisciplinary cooperation that is the hallmark of scientific research at Brandeis. Researchers across departments often collaborate, bringing their unique expertise to projects without regard for departmental affiliation.

“Petsko and his people are able to conduct their research in the most imaginative and unfettered way without being hindered by bureaucracy,” Ginsberg said. “This to me, is somewhat the essence of research.”

“Petso’s lab is making great progress in this area, which is becoming a major health concern in the United States.”

Ginsberg was inspired to make his donation after learning about the cutting-edge research being conducted by Brandeis biochemistry/chemistry professor Gregory Petsko, which could someday yield a cure to the plague of neurodegenerative diseases afflicting America’s aging population.

“I was so impressed with the scientific research being done at Brandeis, particularly in the area of neurodegenerative diseases,” said Ginsberg, whose mother suffered from Parkinson’s and his father battled Alzheimer’s. “Petsko’s lab is making great progress in this area, which is becoming a major health concern in the United States.”

In the background is the architect’s rendering of the interior of the 175,000-square-foot Carl J. Shapiro Science Center, the centerpiece of The Campaign for Brandeis’s science initiative.
Leir Foundations establish chair in economics of the Middle East

Recognizing that the economy of the Middle East plays a critical role in influencing world stability, the Leir Charitable Foundations made a gift of $3 million to establish the Henry J. Leir Chair in the Economics of the Middle East at Brandeis.

The Leir Chair will become a vital part of the pioneering Center for Middle East Studies, which has earned acclaim for its balanced, objective, and dispassionate research regarding all aspects of the region.

The Leir Chair will teach students, conduct research, and represent the Crown Center at conferences.

While the search for the Leir Chair incumbent is underway, Professor Eric Graber has assumed the responsibilities for the 2006-07 academic year. Graber comes to Brandeis from the University of Maryland's University College Graduate School of Management and has more than 30 years of experience as an economist and professor.

"After meeting with the people from Brandeis, we came to realize that the economics of the countries in the Middle East greatly influence who invades whom, and that shared economic concerns could provide a pathway that leads to a long-lasting peace for Israel and its neighbors,"

said Arthur S. Hoffman, president of the Leir Charitable Foundations. "The idea of establishing a chair in such an important area of study was very appealing to us."

The Leir Charitable Foundations, established in 1963 by industrialist Henry J. Leir and his wife, Erna, support a variety of endeavors around the world, including educational institutions, medical research, libraries, and museums. At Brandeis, the Foundations have generously supported construction of The Village residential complex, The Rose Art Museum, and other programs that enrich student life.

In addition to his commitment to philanthropic endeavors, Henry Leir was also devoted to strengthening the global economy, and wrote a 1937 novel that advanced the idea that economic factors greatly influence the security of individuals and countries.

"As recent events have shown, in addition to the settlement of political issues, economies are a crucial tool for the stabilization of the Middle East," Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz said. "Now, more than ever, our world leaders must heed Mr. Leir's important advice to strengthen citizens' livelihoods in order to prevent future conflicts."

Schusterman Foundation makes gift to Summer Institute for Israel Studies

Thanks to a gift from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, the pioneering Brandeis Summer Institute for Israel Studies will expand to a year-round program to enrich the teaching of Israel on campuses throughout North America.

Since it was created in 2004 to address the shortage of qualified academics teaching about Israel, the Institute’s three-week summer seminar — two weeks at Brandeis and a third week in Israel — has assisted faculty from nearly 60 colleges and universities in developing new courses in the emerging field of Israel Studies at their institutions.

The multi-year grant from the Schusterman Foundation will help fund the Institute through 2009 while broadening the program with the establishment of periodic workshops, conferences focused on cutting-edge issues, and an enhanced website where program graduates can share ideas and course materials.

“We thank the Schusterman Foundation for this generous gift,” said Ilan Troen, the director of the Institute and the Stoll Family Professor in Israel Studies at Brandeis. “This will permit us to develop a 12-month program to supplement the summer seminar and also invite us to imagine and create what the Institute will look like in the future.”

Participants in the one-of-a-kind Summer Institute attend seminars at Brandeis led by distinguished scholars from leading universities throughout the United States and Israel, then visit Israel for sessions with noted scholars, writers, artists, and experts as well as leaders from the Israeli and Arab communities. Participants represent the full range of U.S. academic institutions, from small liberal arts colleges to large public universities.

To underscore the impact the program has already had, a half-dozen Institute graduates will be leading sessions on Israel Studies at the upcoming Association of Jewish Studies conference.

“The foundation is very committed to enhancing the study of Israel in academia and making Israel a more normative and positive part of campus life,” said Lisa Eisen, national program director of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation. “We see the Summer Institute for Israel Studies as an investment to develop a cadre of professors who are capable of teaching about modern Israel.

“Right now there is a dearth of scholars trained to teach modern Israel, and we believe the Summer Institute provides an excellent opportunity for giving faculty the tools and resources they need to offer Israel Studies courses,” she said.

Kukin gift creates fellowship, prize

Ira Kukin, G ’08, ’11, has always admired Brandeis from a distance. Now, with a grandson on campus and a granddaughter set to enroll next fall after spending a year in Israel, he has had the opportunity to experience the University up close — and he likes what he sees.

Kukin, a scientist and inventor who founded and serves as CEO of Apollo Technologies International, recently made a gift of $1.2 million to Brandeis to establish the Kukin/Moskowitz Graduate Fellowship in Science and the Kukin/Moskowitz Undergraduate Prize in Science.

“Brandeis is a wonderful institution with a sterling academic reputation and a bright future,” Kukin said. “I believe that Brandeis’s greatest strength is that it doesn’t want to be a Jewish university, but a Jewish-sponsored university. Brandeis provides a high-quality education in an environment well suited to the enhancement of Jewish values.”

Kukin’s connection with Brandeis goes back to its earliest days, when he was a graduate student at Harvard, obtaining his Ph.D. in chemistry. By coincidence, he was an adjacent roommate of Howard Sachar, the son of Brandeis Founding President Abram Sachar and today a professor emeritus of modern history at George Washington University.

“I always had it in the back of my mind that I would support Brandeis,” Kukin said. “I have great feelings for the University.”

Those feelings were rekindled when his grandson Doron Moskowitz ’08 enrolled at Brandeis in the fall of 2004. Doron’s sister Adina ’11 plans to join him next year after spending this year in Israel.

“I was so delighted when Doron said he was interested in Brandeis,” Kukin said, “and it’s the only place my granddaughter applied.”

Through the Ira and Doris Kukin Foundation, Kukin and his wife have been generous supporters of a number of organizations, particularly Jewish educational institutions. Kukin serves as vice chairman of the board of Yeshiva University.
Petri Fellowship to help students from three continents

The original plan called for the Peter Petri Global Fellowship to be named in honor of one of the Brandeis International Business School’s most generous benefactors. “We proposed this concept to Ron Ansin as the Ronald M. Ansin Global Fellowship,” Petri remembered. “He said, ‘That’s a wonderful idea, but I just want to make one change: I want to name it after you, not me.’ It shows something about Ron and his generosity.”

And so was born the Petri Global Fellowship, which honors the founding dean of IBS and the Carl J. Shapiro Professor of International Finance. Supported by the $1 million Ronald M. Ansin Fund, the Petri Fellowship will be awarded each year to students from three different continents who demonstrate exceptional scholastic ability, financial need, and leadership potential.

Funding for the Petri Fellowship was secured through the generosity and leadership of Ansin and fellow IBS Overseer Amy Kessler ’89, MA ’90.

Kessler provided a leadership gift and also helped rally her fellow IBS alumni to make donations to the Petri Fellowship. More than 110 IBS graduates have already made gifts, helping the Fellowship grow to more than $1.4 million, the school’s largest scholarship fund.

“I wanted to honor what Dean Petri had created because IBS is such an incredibly special place,” Kessler said, “but I also wanted to ask other alumni to think about the scholarship aid that so many of us received and turn around to make it possible for others to attend IBS.”

New Ratner scholarship will support aspiring investigative journalists

Concerned that the media has become more government lapdog than watchdog, Michael Ratner ’66 made a gift to establish a full-tuition scholarship for a Brandeis student interested in pursuing a career as an investigative journalist. The scholarship recipient will work closely with The Brandeis Institute for Investigative Journalism, which was established in 2004 to help revitalize the practice of investigative journalism. The Institute helps teach students about investigative reporting and its importance in serving as a check on government power.

“My view is that investigative journalism plays a major role in a democratic society,” said Ratner, a leading human rights litigator and the president of the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York. “Investigative journalists uncover the stories that protect us from government excesses and illegitimates.”

From recent work by Jane Mayer (extraordinary rendition) and Seymour Hersh (Abu Ghraib) to Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein’s stories on Watergate in the 1970s, investigative journalists have brought to light important government policies that might otherwise have escaped the public’s notice, according to Ratner.

“It’s unimaginable where we would be without investigative journalism,” Ratner said. “I think Brandeis is the perfect place to train the next generation of investigative journalists.”

“We are so grateful that Michael Ratner, who has spent his life fighting injustice and governmental wrongdoing, has chosen to support Brandeis students committed to the type of investigative journalism that is so crucial to a healthy democracy,” said Florence Graves, director of The Brandeis Institute for Investigative Journalism.

Ratner received a 2006 Brandeis Alumni Achievement Award for his work on behalf of those denied their human rights around the world. He won a landmark case involving Guantanamo Bay detainees before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ratner and his family have been longtime supporters of Brandeis. His cousin Ronald ’69, a Brandeis Trustee, and his wife established the Max and Betty Ratner Scholarship in honor of his parents, and have also made generous gifts to The Village residential complex and the Annual Fund.
Brandeis in the Berkshires
Brandeis in the Berkshires returned to the Cranwell Resort and Spa in Lenox, Massachusetts, for a weekend symposium and four-day institute focused on the Middle East.

Crown Forum
The Crown Center for Middle East Studies has initiated the Crown Forum, a series of briefings with Middle East insiders at Brandeis House in New York.

A proper send-off
Elizabeth Etra Jick ’81 and Trustee Daniel Jick ’79, P ’09, hosted a new student send-off for incoming freshmen and their families at their Boston area home.
Brandeis Night in LA
Alumni from the Los Angeles area spent the evening at the home of Hollywood producer Gary D. Goldberg ’66. The event was sponsored by the Justice Brandeis Society.

Doing Business
International Business School alumni from around the world returned to campus for the All-Class Alumni Reunion, which celebrated the 1,000th IBS graduate.

Sachar Legacy Society Luncheon
Nearly 150 people attended the annual Sachar Legacy Society Luncheon, which honors those who have included Brandeis in their estate plans. Friends Manny and Sheila Landsman served as hosts. Robert Sekuler, the Louis and Frances Salvage Professor of Psychology, spoke about his research on human vision and cognition.
Outing raises $100,000 for scholarships

Brandeis students were the real winners at the second annual Brandeis Golf and Tennis Outing, which raised about $100,000 for undergraduate scholarships.

More than 100 alumni, parents, and friends attended the event on July 24 at Ridgeway Country Club in White Plains, N.Y. The outing was sponsored by Alpine Capital Bank, along with a host of alumni and corporations.

“We want to thank all the sponsors, supporters, and participants for taking part in this wonderful event,” said Henry Aboodi ’86 and Trustee Danny Elkaim ’81, who helped organize the event. “I think everyone enjoyed themselves, but more importantly our efforts will help current and future Brandeis students.”

Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz and Nancy Winship, P ’10, the University’s senior vice president of institutional advancement, attended the post-event awards dinner.

Other event sponsors included Elkaim, Paula and Charlie Fisch ’87, Stacy A. Sarna ’90, Richloom Fabrics Group, Sara and Michael Baurnrin ’75, CEM, Liberty Mutual, Prospect Venture Partners, Red Oak Transportation, BWD Group, Karen and Jonathan Mallin ’94, Park Avenue Plastic Surgery, Doug Monasebian’84, Matthew Rifkin ’71 and Adam Rifkin ’97, Samantha ’01 and Adam Zirkin ’01, ARG Development, Lauren and Gary Goldman ’86, Jennifer ’93 and Bryan Greenwald ’93, and Flo and Paul Silberfarb ’77.


Golf results:

Honesty — 1, Darryl Monasebian-Larry Lazar-Mark Schlangel ’05-Matt Hoffman ’02. Closest to the pin — Matthew Rifkin ’71, Michael Doppelt, Max Baurnrin (son of Michael ’75), and Brian Breyer. Longest drive — Josh Levine ’06. Closest to the fine — Eric Strauss ’04.

Tennis results: