Building the future

Construction crews have been busy on campus building a new residential complex where the Ridgewood dormitories once stood (above) and completing work on the Carl J. Shapiro Science Center (right), the largest capital initiative in Brandeis history.

Nancy Lurie Marks establishes disability institute and professorship

A quarter-century after establishing an endowed faculty chair at Brandeis to study the neurological basis for autism and related disorders, Fellow Nancy Lurie Marks, P ’77, P ’87, G ’01, has made a gift of $5 million to Brandeis to help improve the lives of the increasing number of people living with the condition and other disabilities. The gift, from the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation, will create the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy and endow a professorship at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management.

Through research, policy development, education, and public engagement, the Lurie Institute will help people with disabilities, particularly autism, successfully integrate into the mainstream of society. The University’s ongoing scientific research into developmental disabilities, including autism, will inform the Lurie Institute’s activities, providing a comprehensive approach to addressing disability issues across the lifespan.

“My family is dedicated to helping people with disabilities, particularly autism, lead fulfilling and rewarding lives,” said Mrs. Lurie Marks, who established her foundation 30 years ago. “With our mutual commitment to progressive policies for people with disabilities, the Heller School at Brandeis is a natural home for the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, which will be able to draw on Heller’s renowned faculty and expertise.”

The number of people diagnosed with autism in the United States has grown exponentially in recent years. While about one in 2,500 people was diagnosed with the condition in the 1960s, now one in 166 Americans is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

“We are thrilled about this partnership and anticipate that the Lurie Institute will fuel the development of innovative social policies at this critical time for people with disabilities, especially as they and their families seek a greater voice in decision-making related to their life-long needs,” said Marty Wyngaard Krauss, PhD ’81, Brandeis’s provost, senior vice president for academic affairs.

Record year in ’07

Thanks to another record-breaking fundraising year in fiscal 2007, The Campaign for Brandeis is within $897 million of reaching its target — well ahead of schedule!

As of Sept. 30, the most ambitious fundraising effort in Brandeis history had received $867 million in cash and pledges, 87 percent of the way toward meeting the goal of $770 million by June 30, 2009. In the fiscal year that ended June 30, the University raised an all-time high of $89.4 million in cash gifts.

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Campus Connections is published by the Brandeis University Office of Development and Alumni Relations.
Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement: Nancy Winship, P ’10
Associate Vice President for Campaign: Susan Kimley
Managing Editor: David E. Nathan
Associate Editor: Mary Savitz
Contributing Writers: Maritatta Halay, Raquel Rosenblatt
Photography: Mike Lovett, Derek Fowles, Antky Dhabrotinse
Design and Production: Crocker & Company

For campaign information, call 1-800-333-1948.

Brandeis University
Development and Alumni Relations
Waltham, MA 02454
I n an effort to promote change in Jewish life, leading international philanthropist Charles R. Bronfman has made a gift of $1.5 million to establish a visiting chair in Jewish communal innovation at Brandeis. “One of the Jewish community’s great strengths in North America has been its ability to innovate generation to generation,” said Bronfman, a Brandeis Trustee since 2003. “It is our hope that this chair will reinforce this process at this critical time.”

The holder of the Bronfman chair will be selected through a competition administered by the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program at Brandeis. Creative thinkers of every kind will submit their ideas for changing the way Jews think about themselves and their community. The winner will receive two years of salary, benefits, and research assistance to develop his or her idea into a book.

The model for the contest grows from an offer, made by Sears Roebuck and Co. chairman Julius Rosenwald in 1929, of a $10,000 prize for the winning entry to the question: How can Judaism best adjust itself to and influence modern life? “Judaism as a Civilization,” submitted anonymously by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, was chosen and quickly became the most influential Jewish book of its time.

“The new chair will stimulate much-needed communal innovation in Jewish life, and make it possible for Brandeis to incubate creative ideas that might not otherwise see the light of day,” said Jonathan D. Sarna, Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis and director of the Hornstein program.

Bronfman and his late wife, Andrea, established the Institute for Informal Jewish Education, the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Scholarship Fund, and the Professional Development Seminars: Advancing the Israel Experience at Brandeis.
New IRA law to expire soon

Time is running out for Brandeis donors hoping to take advantage of the new Pension Protection Act.

The law, which offers a unique opportunity to help the University while deriving significant tax advantages at the same time, will expire on Dec. 31. It was enacted in August 2006.

The Pension Protection Act includes a provision that allows donors who are at least 70 1/2 years old to transfer up to $100,000 a year to Brandeis (or another qualified charity) directly from their individual retirement account without being required to report it as income for federal tax purposes.

The provision offers an exclusion from gross income for an otherwise-taxable IRA distribution and allows the amount rolled over to count against a donor’s minimum distribution requirement.

“The Pension Protection Act gives donors the chance to support Brandeis and receive significant tax advantages while doing so,” said Nancy Winship, P ‘10, Brandeis’s senior vice president of institutional advancement. Previously, donors had to report a withdrawal from an IRA as income and then declare an offsetting income tax deduction for the charitable contribution.

Justice Brandeis Society

Justice Brandeis Society members are invited to attend “All About Fat: The Story Behind Smart Balance,” a presentation by Brandeis professor K.C. Hayes, the innovative force behind the heart-healthy buttery spread, at 7 p.m. on Nov. 15 at Brandeis House in New York. RSVP to 212-472-1501, ext. 231 or events@alumni.brandeis.edu.

Upcoming JBS events include the annual holiday party at The Rose Art Museum on Dec. 2 and Brandeis Night in Washington at the home of Paul Regan ’73 on June 1.

For more information, visit giving.brandeis.edu/alumnifund/jbs.html.

Reunion


For more information, email reunion@brandeis.edu, call 800-333-1948 or visit alumni.brandeis.edu/web/reunions/2008/index.html.

Diversity scholarship established

The just-established Minority Alumni Network Diversity Scholarship is designed to help ensure that Brandeis continues to be a diverse, vibrant institution that reflects the world at large.

Under the leadership of chair Joseph Perkins ’66, the 835-member Minority Alumni Network (MAN) recently reached its initial goal of raising $50,000 to fund the scholarship.

“While we are gratified that we reached our goal, there’s still a lot of room to grow with this particular scholarship fund,” Perkins said. “We want to get to the point where this scholarship can finance a student’s entire Brandeis education.

The first recipient of the MAN Diversity Scholarship is Ria Roberts ’10, who hails from Brooklyn, N.Y., and was the valedictorian of her high school class. Ria intends to major in biology or sociology and hopes to become an orthopedic surgeon. At Brandeis, she serves as an orientation leader for incoming students and is a member of the Student Support Services Leadership Board.

Donors to the new scholarship included Peter Wong ’99, who chose to make a generous gift to allow other students to have the chance for the same enriching experience he enjoyed at Brandeis. Wong grew up in Boston’s Chinatown neighborhood.

“Being at Brandeis was an amazing experience for me,” Wong said. “It’s important to give back to the University so future generations who come after us will have the same opportunities we had.”

Both Perkins and Wong believe providing opportunities for a diverse group of students improves the Brandeis experience for the entire campus community.

“If you just had people who all looked alike or thought alike, what kind of experience would that be?” Perkins said. “As an international institution, it’s important that Brandeis continues to reflect the diversity of the world community.”

For more information about the Minority Alumni Network Diversity Scholarship, contact Amy Silverstein (781-736-4049 or silberst@brandeis.edu).

Scholarship honors civil rights leader

Brandeis has established the A. Philip Randolph Endowed Posse Scholarship, which will provide a student full tuition support while honoring the prominent 20th-century civil rights leader.

The scholarship, which was funded by a gift of $700,000 from an anonymous donor, will endow a Posse Scholarship in Randolph’s name in perpetuity at Brandeis.

“It is entirely fitting that the A. Philip Randolph Endowed Posse Scholarship is established at Brandeis, a University that has long embraced the ideal of achieving social justice,” said Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz, PhD ’72.

“A Philip Randolph selflessly dedicated his life to improving the lives of all Americans,” said Brandeis professor K.C. Hayes, the innovative force behind the heart-healthy buttery spread, at 7 p.m. on Nov. 15 at Brandeis House in New York. RSVP to 212-472-1501, ext. 231 or events@alumni.brandeis.edu.

In cooperation with The Posse Foundation, which was founded by Deborah Bial ’87, Brandeis awards 10 merit-based Posse Scholarships each year to students from public high schools in New York City. Posse Scholars are selected for their academic, leadership, and communication skills. Since joining the national Posse program at its inception in 1998, Brandeis has awarded 100 Posse scholarships to deserving students.

The first recipient of the Randolph Posse Scholarship is Deborah Mirabal ’10 of Brooklyn, N.Y.

A. Philip Randolph (1889-1979) founded the first independent black labor union in the United States when he organized the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in 1925. After a long struggle, the Pullman Company agreed to a union contract in 1937.

Randolph also successfully pushed for integration of the military in the 1940s, founded the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights in the 1950s, and was a leading organizer of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963. He also served as a vice president of the AFL-CIO.

Nancy Lurie Marks gift continued from page 1

and the John Stein Professor of Disability Research.

Since Mrs. Lurie Marks established her pioneering foundation in 1977, it has been a leader in promoting research into autism. The Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation is dedicated to helping individuals and families whose lives are affected by autism and to increasing both the public awareness of autism and the free exchange of information about it.

Mrs. Lurie Marks and her family are longtime supporters of Brandeis. Her daughter, Cathy Lurie, graduated in 1977 and her son Jeffrey Lurie received a PhD from the Heller School in 1987. Her granddaughter Nicole Adams graduated in 2001.

In 2004, the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation sponsored a symposium on autism and behavioral genetics to celebrate the grand opening of the National Center for Behavioral Genomics at Brandeis and the 10th anniversary of the Volen National Center for Complex Systems. At the same time, the Foundation supported an innovative neuroscience course for undergraduates focusing on autism and Professor Susan Birren’s autism research program. In addition, the family has generously supported other autism research.

Record year continued from page 1

“What some people once thought impossible now seems achievable,” said Nancy Winship, P ‘10, Brandeis’s senior vice president of institutional advancement. “The success of the Campaign has helped improve Brandeis’s academic standing, transformed the campus physical plant, and put the institution on strong financial footing.”

The Campaign success is emblematic of the new era of philanthropy that Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz, PhD ’72 has charted since becoming president in 1994.

Campaign highlights include:

• Gifts have funded new undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, and endowed faculty chairs.
• The Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Silberman Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy, and Steinhardt Social Research Institute have been established.
• A host of new buildings have been erected, including the Carlin and Ruth Shapiro Campus Center, Irving Schneider and Family Building, Abraham Shapiro Academic Complex, Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education, and the Lois Foster Wing of The Rose Art Museum.

The first gift to the Campaign was a $20 million pledge from Mrs. Lurie Marks and her family, the leadership gift for which the University is named, and was designated to launch the School of Law.

In 1965, the then Mrs. Lurie Marks and her family established the Lurie Foundation, one of the nation’s pioneering foundations in 1977, it has been a leader in promoting research into autism. The Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation is dedicated to helping individuals and families whose lives are affected by autism and to increasing both the public awareness of autism and the free exchange of information about it.

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A Brandeis Chair Lift: Endowed Professorships Enhance

Since the launch of The Campaign for Brandeis, donors have made gifts of nearly $100 million to endow 28 faculty chairs in subjects ranging from neuroscience to Jewish education.

Albert Abramson Professor of Holocaust Studies
Incumbent: Antony Polonsky
Academic affiliation: Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
Donor: Albert Abramson

Martin and Ahuva Gross Professor in Financial Markets and Institutions
Incumbent: Bruce Magid
Academic affiliation: International Business School
Donors: Trustee Martin ’72 and Ahuva Gross, ’01, P ’08

Cynthia L. and Theodore S. Berenson Professor of Fine Arts
Incumbent: Peter Kalb
Academic affiliation: Fine Arts
Donors: Fellow Cynthia and Theodore Berenson

Sylvia K. Hassenfeld Professor of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
Incumbent: Kanan Maleya
Academic affiliation: Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
Donor: Trustee Sylvia Hassenfeld, Alan Hassenfeld, and Ellen Block Hassenfeld

JPMorgan Chase Professor of Ethics
Incumbent: Marion Smiley
Academic affiliation: Philosophy, Women’s and Gender Studies, International and Global Studies, Social Justice and Social Policy
Donor: JPMorgan Chase

Kevy and Hortense Kaiserman Professor in the Humanities
Incumbent: Edward Kaplan
Academic affiliation: Romance Studies
Donors: Trustee Kenneth Kaiserman ’60 and Ronald Kaiserman ’63, ’07 and Family

Harold and Bernice Davis Professor of Aging and Neurodegenerative Disease
Incumbent: Dagmar Ringe
Academic affiliation: Biochemistry, Chemistry, Biological Physics
Donors: Trustee Jonathan Davis ’75 and Margot Davis, MA ’05

Earle W. Kazis Professor in the Practice of Finance and International Real Estate
Incumbent: Edward Bayone
Academic affiliation: International Business School, Business
Donor: Earle ’55 and Judy Kazis

Orrie Friedman Distinguished Professor of Chemistry
Incumbent: Li Deng
Academic affiliation: Chemistry
Donor: Faculty emeritus Orrie and Laurel Friedman

Zalman Abraham Kekst Professor of Neuroscience
Incumbent: John Lisman
Academic affiliation: Biology, Neuroscience
Donor: Trustee Gershon and Carol Kekst, ’05

Raymond Ginger Professor of History
Incumbent: Paul Jankowksi
Academic affiliation: History, Cultural Production
Donors: Trustee William ’65 and Lucy Friedman

Myra and Robert Kraft Chair in Arab Politics
Incumbent: Asher Susser
Academic affiliation: Crozier Center for Middle East Studies, Politics
Donors: Trustee Myra (Hiatt) ’64 and Robert Kraft
Barbara and Richard M. Rosenberg
Professor of Global Finance
Incumbent: Stephen Cecchetti
Academic affiliation: International Business School, Economics
Donors: Trustee Barbara (Cohen) ’54 and Richard Rosenberg

Edmond J. Safra
Professor of Sephardic Studies
Incumbent: Jonathan Decker
Academic affiliation: Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Donor: Lily Safra, G ’06

Barbara Sherman ’54 and Malcolm L. Sherman
Professor of Theater Arts
Incumbent: Eric Hill
Academic affiliation: Theater Arts, Cultural Production
Donors: Fellow Barbara (Cantor) ’54 and Trustee Malcolm Sherman, P ’83

Karl, Harry and Helen Stoll Family
Professor of Israel Studies
Incumbent: S. Ilan Troen
Academic affiliation: Charles and Lynn Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
Donor: Karl Stoll, and Harry and Helen Stoll, G ’04

Judith and Sidney Swartz Director of the
Crown Center for Middle East Studies
Incumbent: Shai Feldman
Academic affiliation: Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Politics
Donors: Judith and Sidney Szecarts

Search for Incumbent Underway:
Fred and Rita Richman Distinguished Visiting Professor
Past Incumbents: Trustee Thomas Friedman ’75 (left), late Trustee Ann Richards, G ’09, William Schneider ’66, and Ed Koch
Donors: Trustee Carol (Richman) Saitzes ’69, P ’97, P ’01; Fellows Fred and Rita Richman, P ’69, G ’97, G ’01; Michael Saitzes ’97, Aliza Saitzes ’01; and James and Elissa Richman
Brandeis in the Berkshires

Members of the Brandeis family gathered at the Cranwell Resort and Spa in Lenox, Massachusetts, for a series of thought-provoking summer programs focused on the Middle East, Israel, and Jewish culture.

Fellow Harold Grinspoon, a major supporter of Brandeis in the Berkshires, with presenters Shai Feldman, the Judith and Sidney Swartz Director of the Crown Center for Middle East Studies, and Abdel Monem Said Aly, a Crown Center senior research fellow.

Golf and Tennis Outing

Alumni and friends came together this summer at Old Oaks Country Club in Purchase, N.Y., for the third annual Brandeis Golf and Tennis Outing, enjoying a day of competition and camaraderie while raising more than $90,000 for student scholarships. Alpine Capital Bank served as sponsor.

Standing: Nanette Koryn; Trustee Daniel Elkaim ’81; Nancy Winship, P ’20, senior vice president of institutional advancement; and Samantha Gross Zirkin ’01. Seated: Michelle Lasker Mandelblatt ’81, Trustee Jonathan Davis ’75, and Adam Zirkin ’01.

Sachar Legacy Society Luncheon

More than 150 people attended the annual luncheon of the Sachar Legacy Society, an honorary organization comprised of individuals who have included Brandeis in their estate plans. Aileen Cabitt ’53 hosted the event and Scott Edmiston, director of Brandeis’s Office of the Arts, was the keynote speaker.

Standing: Nanette Koryn; Trustee Daniel Elkaim ’81; Nancy Winship, P ’20, senior vice president of institutional advancement; and Samantha Gross Zirkin ’01. Seated: Michelle Lasker Mandelblatt ’81, Trustee Jonathan Davis ’75, and Adam Zirkin ’01.

Trustee Henry ’86 and Monica Aboudi

Aileen Cabitt ’53 and President Jehuda Reinharz, PhD ’72

Erin Warnke and Samuel Leech-Chandler

Fellows Shirley Spero, P ’82, Stanley Hunaff, and Thelma Litsey