Another Crown-ing achievement

The Crown family of Chicago made a major gift to Brandeis that will create three new endowed faculty chairs and help to provide a permanent home for the Crown Center for Middle East Studies.

Brandeis celebrated the generous gift with a large crowd of students, faculty, staff and University administrators at a forum attended by Lester Crown, former Brandeis Trustee Charles (Corky) Goodman, G ’09 and several other family members. Naghmeh Sohrabi, the inaugural Goodman Chair in Middle East History, delivered a lecture, “The Role of History in Understanding Today’s Iran.”

“The Crown family’s extraordinary generosity is matched by their vision for what a great research university can be,” President Fred Lawrence says. “Their gift will further support the Crown Center as the foremost institute for scholarly examination of the Middle East and will add to the critically important endowment that supports Brandeis’ research mission.”

Lawrence also praised Shai Feldman, the Judith and Sidney Swartz Director of the Crown Center, as “the driving force behind a center that has produced path-breaking scholarship that expands understanding of this critically important part of the world,” and Provost Steve A.N. Goldstein ’78, MA ’78, who was instrumental in securing the gift.

Feldman says the Crowns are only concerned with the substance of the center’s work. “Gratitude, recognition, ceremonies and names on walls don’t interest them at all,” Feldman says. “They are interested in the research being conducted. They are engaged. They ask interesting questions and they have never tried to micro-manage the center.”

“The Crown family’s extraordinary generosity is matched by their vision for what a great research university can be.”

— Brandeis President Fred Lawrence

Honoring Upward Bound leader

Scholarship named for Joe Warren

The tough love that Joe Warren, MSW ’72, PhD ’83 frequently administered as the long-time director of Brandeis’ Upward Bound program was color blind.

White, black or Hispanic, he treated every student participating in the pioneering college-access program the same, so it is only fitting that a diverse group of Brandeisians has come together to honor Warren.

“He ran Upward Bound as if it were a military operation — up at 6 a.m. doing calisthenics on Chapels Field, classes all day and then studying until 10 p.m.,” remembers Paul Regan ’73, P ’12, an Upward Bound grad who assisted Warren with the program as a recruiter in his native South Boston. “The continued on page 16...”

New scholarship to support Canadian students

Canada!

Dozens of alumni, parents and friends attended an October launch party in Toronto hosted by former Trustee Len Asper ’86 and his wife, Susan, for the new Brandeis-Canada Endowed Scholarship, an effort by Brandeisians from Canada to support students from their country and also raise the University’s profile north of the border.

“We feel strongly about the need to help students from Canada,” says Charles Novogrodsky ’68, who with the Brandeis Alumni Club of Toronto has helped lead the scholarship push, “and we also wanted to make a statement about the gratitude that the Brandeis community in Canada feels toward Brandeis.”

Organizers hope to raise the amount needed to fully endow the scholarship from as many alumni and friends continued on page 16...
Alumni and friends optimistic about future of Brandeis

I have traveled extensively over the last several weeks, visiting with Brandeis alumni, parents and friends in Toronto, Washington, D.C., New York and elsewhere. I am happy to report that, as I begin my 19th year as Brandeis’ senior vice president of institutional advancement, I have never felt so much excitement and optimism from members of our off-campus family.

The alumni feel a deeper connection to their alma mater, the parents recognize that their children are receiving (or have received) a world-class education in a special community of learners, and our friends understand that Brandeis is a truly unique place.

When I was in Toronto, where most college students attend one of the country’s great public institutions, parents shared stories of the personal attention and mentoring their children had received from our faculty and how they felt the additional financial investment they had made in a Brandeis education was worthwhile.

President Fred Lawrence continues to inspire us. Every place he travels, he makes new friends for Brandeis and further engages all of our constituencies. He has also re-energized the campus, and infused students and faculty with a profound sense of pride. There’s a new school spirit, evidenced by the large crowds at athletic contests and Rose Art Museum events, and the intense interest in speakers who visit campus to discuss everything from poverty to municipal finance. Both students and faculty see Fred as a visionary who will lead the University to new heights.

The entire Brandeis community is looking forward to the January release of the Strategic Plan, which will provide a road map for the University for the next 10 to 20 years and take us into our next comprehensive fundraising campaign to support the plan’s highest priorities.

Our focus will continue to be on raising money for endowed faculty chairs (one of the highest honors a faculty member can attain) and securing funding for student scholarships and fellowships, along with opportunities in disciplines across the campus.

There is no doubt that Brandeis will make changes in the coming years, as will all of our peer institutions, but our core relationships, along with opportunities in disciplines across the campus.

The incredible Brandeis experience is made possible only through the generosity and commitment of our donors. Our scholarship aid allows us to enroll phenomenally talented students from all walks of life, and no other research university with such a clear commitment to social justice.

I’ve been stunned and excited to find that the legacy of our founders and the principles of our nameake are so strongly valued by our students, faculty, alumni and administration. There are very few institutions, and none at our level of prominence, where it is so routine to hear discussions about how we can give back, how we have an obligation to repair the world. As President (Fred) Lawrence says — and I love how true and special this feels — this isn’t just college, this is Brandeis.

How does the Brandeis faculty impact the student experience?

As I speak with alumni and graduating seniors, what I hear again and again is how much they treasure the transformative educational moments they had with our faculty members. Because of our distinctive design as a liberal arts research university, students have extraordinary opportunities to connect with leaders in their fields in small, intimate classroom settings, and a wide variety of opportunities, from research labs to full-semester immersion programs, to extend that interaction outside of the classroom.

What’s the best part of your job?

I am in this wonderful position where I get to interact with students as they are coming into the institution, as they are making the most of their Brandeis experience, when they are making their decisions about how they will align their talent with their commitment to giving back, and with alumni who are making the world a better place.

Mellon Foundation awards Brandeis prestigious grant

The Andrew E. Mellon Foundation has awarded a $175,000 grant to Brandeis to organize a year-long seminar that will bring together faculty and graduate students from Brandeis and other schools in the Boston area to consider the entangled histories and enduring effects of the American (1776-1783), French (1789-1799) and Haitian (1791-1804) revolutions.

The seminar was conceived and will be led by two members of the Brandeis faculty, Jane Kamenseky, the Harry S. Truman Professor of American Civilization, and Susan Lanser, professor of comparative literature, English and women’s and gender studies.

This marks the first time that Brandeis has received funding from the Mellon Foundation to organize a John E. Sawyer Seminar on the Comparative Study of Culture. The competition for this prestigious award, which was established in 1994, is open only by invitation to select universities and colleges. Brandeis is the smallest of the nine institutions awarded grants this year. Recipients include Emory, Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania.

The funding also provides two dissertation fellowships for Brandeis graduate students and will bring to campus a postdoctoral fellow who specializes in the Revolutionary Caribbean.

“Rethinking the Age of Revolution: Rights, Representation, and the Global Imaginary,” will draw on the rich historical, educational and cultural resources of metropolitan Boston and on the interdisciplinary community fostered by the new Mandel Center for the Humanities at Brandeis.

The Sawyer Seminar represents just the type of rigorous interdisciplinary scholarly work that the Mandel Foundation envisioned when it made a gift of $22.5 million to establish the Mandel Center in 2010.

Head of students and enrollment: Generous donor support makes Brandeis student experience possible

At Brandeis, Andrze Fliegel found the perfect professional match for his interests — advocacy for access to higher education for underserved populations, engaging diverse students and a commitment to social justice. The senior vice president of students and enrollment at Brandeis since last fall, he oversees student affairs, ranging from housing and orientation to student activities and the interfaith chaplaincy; admissions; financial aid; and the Huitz Career Center. A native of Dayton, Ohio, he earned his BA and MA degrees from George Washington University and a PhD in education from Michigan State. In addition to his formal responsibilities, Fliegel has been called the University’s cheerleader-in-chief, reminding students, faculty, alumni and friends that the normal at Brandeis — phenomenal in and out of the classroom — is hardly the norm at other institutions. He sat down with Connections to discuss the unique character of Brandeis, his interactions with students and the important role that donors play.

Q: Many colleges and universities spend significant resources and energy trying to determine what sets them apart from other institutions on the higher education landscape. How are you doing that at Brandeis?

A: It’s an amazing advantage to have an institution as truly distinctive as Brandeis.

Q: There is no other institution founded by the Jewish community to be open to students of all faiths, and no other research university with such a clear commitment to social justice. I’ve been stunned and excited to find that the legacy of our founders and the principles of our nameake are so strongly valued by our students, faculty, alumni and administration. There are very few institutions, and none at our level of prominence, where it is so routine to hear discussions about how we can give back, how we have an obligation to repair the world. As President (Fred) Lawrence says — and I love how true and special this feels — this isn’t just college, this is Brandeis.

A: How does the Brandeis faculty impact the student experience?

Q: As I speak with alumni and graduating seniors, what I hear again and again is how much they treasure the transformative educational moments they had with our faculty members. Because of our distinctive design as a liberal arts research university, students have extraordinary opportunities to connect with leaders in their fields in small, intimate classroom settings, and a wide variety of opportunities, from research labs to full-semester immersion programs, to extend that interaction outside of the classroom.

A: The incredible Brandeis experience is made possible only through the generosity and commitment of our donors. Our scholarship aid allows us to enroll phenomenally talented socio-economically and culturally diverse student populations that could not otherwise afford to make the most of their potential. We also depend on the philanthropy of our community, particularly our alumni and friends, to allow us to take these incredibly talented students and connect them with enriching, exciting opportunities so they can continue to grow as people and hone their skills to be able to change the world.

Q: What’s the best part of your job?

A: I am in this wonderful position where I get to interact with students as they are coming into the institution, as they are making the most of their Brandeis experience, when they are making their decisions about how they will align their talent with their commitment to giving back, and with alumni who are making the world a better place.
Reunion 2012 classes make gifts totaling $2.5 million

The University’s young alumni helped Brandeis record another strong fundraising performance in fiscal year 2012.

In the first year of the new Bold (Brandeisians of the Last Decade) program, support from alumni who graduated in 2002 and later rose 23 percent from a year ago. Bold, which the Office of Development and Alumni Relations launched last fall, features new programming and special opportunities designed to strengthen the young alumni community, develop future alumni leaders and cultivate annual giving.

"It is exciting to see that our young alumni are stepping forward," says Nancy Winslip, P ’10, P ’12, senior vice president of institutional advancement. "It is a sign of a truly healthy institution that young alumni feel so positively about their time at Brandeis that they are already supporting their alma mater."

Additionally, the Class of 2012, Brandeis’ youngest alumni, set a record for senior class gift participation. Seventy-five percent of the seniors contributed, breaking the old record of 71 percent that was set last year.

President Fred Lawrence and his wife, Kathy, made a generous contribution based on the senior class’s unprecedented participation level. Additionally, 35 percent of the seniors who supported the gift pledged to make a donation to the Annual Fund in each of the next five years.

Allison Berger ’12, Anna Clarke ’12 and Ariadne Lyon ’12 served as co-chairs of the Senior Class Gift Committee.

Seniors who made a gift wore blue-and-white medallions on their gowns during Commencement on May 20.

"For our senior class to support Brandeis so enthusiastically is a testament to the way they feel about their educational experience," says Trustee Jonathan Davis ’75, co-chair of the Development Committee of the Board of Trustees. "It is gratifying to see this level of commitment from our youngest alumni.”

Reunion 2013 will be held June 7-9, 2013, for the classes of 1953, ’58, ’63, ’68, ’73, ’78, ’83, ’88, ’93, ’98, ’03 and ’08. If you are interested in serving on your class Reunion Committee, email reunion@alumni.brandeis.edu.
President’s New Home

President Fred Lawrence and his wife, Kathy, hosted a gathering of alumni and friends at their new home in the renovated Watch Factory along the Charles River on Crescent Street, less than a mile walk from campus. Lawrence is the first of the eight leaders of Brandeis to call Waltham home.

Sachar Luncheon

Nearly 300 people visited campus to hear keynote speaker Anita Hill, senior advisor to the provost and professor of social policy, law and women’s studies at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, at the annual Sachar Legacy Society luncheon. The event was chaired by Sherwood ’55 and Judith Gorbach ’58. The Legacy Society is comprised of individuals who have included Brandeis in their estate plans.

Welcome to Brandeis

Brandeis alumni and friends welcomed Christopher Bedford, chief curator of exhibitions at Ohio State University’s Wexner Center for the Arts, to Brandeis as the new Henry and Lois Foster Director of the Rose Art Museum.

Dr. Rose Jannini Scholar Lanxin Li ’13, Ralph Jannini, Professor Hill, President Fred Lawrence, Judith and Sherwood

Mervin Gray, Arthur Neuhoff and Nancy Winship, P ’10, P ’12, senior vice president of institutional advancement

President Fred Lawrence; Dor Guez, the Ruth Ann and Nathan Perlmutter Artist in Residence; Christopher; and Kathy Lawrence

Provost Steve A.N. Goldstein ’78, MA ’78; Christopher; and Scott Edmiston, director of the Office of the Arts
New Fellows
During a ceremony at the annual Fellows Breakfast before Commencement, Fellows Laurel Friedman and Robin Sherman ’83 were hooded during a ceremony.

Celebrating Chair
The Brandeis community gathered to celebrate the establishment of the new Peter Gruber Chair in Neuroscience. Award-winning scientist Michael Rosbash, whose research has provided important insights into the brain, health and sleep disorders, is a first member of the faculty to hold the chair.

Legacy Fund
Prescott Steve A.N. Oddo, ’78, M.A., ’78, Malcolm Sherman, ’83, chair of the Board of Trustees; Barbara Sherman ’84, P’83; and President Fred Lawrence

Ruth Shapiro dies at age 95
Ruth Shapiro, whose philanthropic partnership with her husband, Carl, benefited Brandeis for more than a half-century and helped transform the University into a leader in American higher education, died on Oct. 14 surrounded by her family. She was 95.

Legacy Fund
Jules Bernstein '57 (center), founder of the Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice, poses with some of the 30 Brandeis students who work as interns each summer at mission-driven organizations around the world, thanks to support from the Legacy Fund.
B randeians from  Canada launch new student-scholarship effort

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as possible — in provinces as diverse as New Brunswick in the east to British Columbia in the west. In all, about 1,000 Brandeis alumni, parents and friends live in Canada.

“Gifts of all sizes are welcome,” Novogrodsky says. “There is practical and symbolic value in having the largest number of Canadian alumni and friends possible contribute to the scholarship.”

The scholarship is designed to serve as an incentive for Canadian students to attend Brandeis since it will help offset the higher cost compared to Canada’s state-subsidized system of higher education. A total of 28 students from Canada — 14 undergraduates and 14 grad students — currently attend Brandeis.

“Brandeis has not been on the radar screen of many Canadian students, but we think there are some very capable students who would find the personal attention and small community at Brandeis attractive,” says Myra Novogrodsky ’68, Charles’ wife and another scholarship organizer.

Most families in Canada do not typically consider private universities in the United States because of the cost relative to Canadian universities, which are heavily supported by the government. Many universities in Canada are several times larger than Brandeis, offer little on-campus housing and have high faculty-student ratios. For instance, more than 60,000 students attend the University of Toronto, and the enrollment at York University, which is also located in Toronto, exceeds 46,000.

The Brandeis family in Canada has a special connection to the University, according to the Novogrodskys. While many of them grew up elsewhere, a large number have settled in Toronto, which is regarded as one of the world’s most culturally diverse metropolitan areas.

“For many of the Brandeis alumni who live in Canada, it was a big deal to cross a border to go to Brandeis. Some of them have been crossing borders all their lives,” Charles says. “What we all share, no matter where we are from, is the Brandeis experience, which has occupied a central position in all of our lives.”

For more information about the Brandsie-Canada Endowed Scholarship, contact Karen Rogal ’98, director of alumni and university relations (781-736-4106 or krogal@brandeis.edu).

C row n Center flourishing

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Crow n family support for Brandeis long predates the founding of the Crown Center. In 1968, the Crowns established the Irving and Rose Crown School of Graduate Studies in American Civilization and created the Crown Fellows program to fund its students’ work.

The Crown Center’s priority study areas and the availability of top scholars will determine the exact nature of the other chairs to be funded by the gift, according to Feldman. The study areas are Syria and Lebanon; Turkey; the politics of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states; and sectarianism, tribalism and ethnicity in the Middle East. All the new chairs will be located in academic departments.

The gift should help to secure a permanent home for the Crown Center.

New scholarship honors Upward Bound leader

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whole message was discipline and self-control. These were tough kids, but he saw something in them and wanted them to succeed. He encouraged them every step of the way.”

To memorialize the man who changed the trajectory of hundreds of teenagers’ lives by helping to steer them toward college, Regan joined two fellow Upward Bound alumni, Curtis Tearte ’73 and Jose Perez ’75, in making a generous gift to establish the Joseph D. Warren Endowed Scholarship at Brandeis. The scholarship provides need-based financial aid for a student with a demonstrated interest in social justice who comes from a low-income family. Preference is given to students who are the first in their family to attend college.

Warren, who died in 2010 at the age of 71 after a lifetime of helping the less fortunate, led the Upward Bound program at Brandeis from 1970-73. He went on to establish the Warren Commission, which successfully advocated on behalf of minority communities in Massachusetts. He also served in a variety of roles under Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, worked as a professor and director of community affairs at Northeastern University for more than 25 years, and founded the Balfour Academy, which provides after-school tutoring and college preparation for children in Boston.

Tearte, who worked as one of Warren’s tutor counselors at Brandeis, having completed Upward Bound at Lincoln University in his native Philadelphia, says that Warren’s life epitomized what baseball pioneer Jackie Robinson often said about making a difference: “A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.”

“I learned from Joe that you really need to be cognizant of where you are in life and how you can do something for others who are behind you,” says Tearte, who remained close to Warren long after the two left Brandeis. “To Joe, it was all about reaching back and pulling forward.”

When former students would thank Warren for all he had done for them, he responded with his Upward Bound motto: “Failure is not an option,” Perez remembers. “Joe would say, ‘The way you thank me is to help someone else. Find someone in the same situation you were in and help.’ That has stuck with me.”

Through Upward Bound, Warren recruited promising high school students from around the Northeast to spend two consecutive summers at Brandeis getting ready for college. Classes focused on the core disciplines of math, English, science and history. Nightly study halls ran from 7-10 p.m. The consequences of repeated misbehavior were great — expulsion.

“He was engaged with every single one of those students,” Tearte says. “He knew their names, their parents, their backgrounds. His effort and dedication were remarkable. Every waking moment he dedicated to the students of the program.”

For more information or to make a gift to the Joseph D. Warren Endowed Scholarship, contact Alan Bertman, director of special and annual gifts in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations (781-736-4032 or abertman@brandeis.edu).