Football star Tom Brady kicks off rededicated Kraft TYP program

A special guest joined the party to celebrate Brandeis' newly renamed Myra (Hiatt) Kraft ’64 Transitional Year Program.

New England Patriots star quarterback Tom Brady, who grew close to the beloved Brandeis alumna during his long tenure with the National Football League team, made a surprise appearance at team owner Robert Kraft’s home to meet about 60 TYP students and alumni.

“I wish you the best of luck,” Brady, who was accompanied by his 3-year-old son, Benjamin, said in addressing the TYP students. “You guys are the leaders of tomorrow. You are going to be leading little boys like this and little girls like my little girl (Vivian).”

Kraft, a prominent Boston businessman, and his family made a $5 million gift earlier this year to rename the pioneering college-access program for Myra, a dedicated Brandeis trustee and supporter who died in 2011.

“She loved the school as a student. She loved the school as an alumna. She loved the school as a trustee,” said Brandeis President Frederick Lawrence, who unveiled a portrait of Myra that will hang in the Irving Enclave on campus.

Grateful former TYP student already supporting the program, Page 3.

“Thank you so much,” said Lila Keller, a senior at Brandeis and a former TYP student, who said she was able to attend college because of this program.

“My class, we are not the only class that’s going to need this,” she said. “This is something I really feel strongly about.”

Lопатер foundation gift to aid Brandeis students

Generations of Brandeis students will benefit from the generosity of Hans and Mavis Lопатер.

Brandeis undergraduates with a declared interest in English, American literature, history, European cultural studies, social sciences, psychology or women's studies will be eligible to receive need-based support through the newly established Hans and Mavis Lопатер Scholarship Fund.

In accordance with the terms of the couple's foundation, Brandeis will receive generous annual distributions to support scholarships. The Lопатер's commitment is one of the largest in University history designated for scholarships.

“The Lопатер’s were warm, kind people who identified strongly with the mission and history of Brandeis University,” said Nancy Winship, P’10, P’13, senior vice president of institutional advancement. “They cared deeply about our students, and they wanted to ensure that Brandeis would continue on page 3

continued on page 15
President inspiring Brandeis alumni, friends

I continue to marvel at President Frederick Lawrence’s boundless energy for Brandeis.

Whether it is attending a student or alumni event on campus, meeting with prospective students and their parents, or traveling great distances to visit with alumni and friends, he is always eager to spend time with members of the Brandeis family and share his vision for the University.

We often travel together, and I am always struck by how deeply he connects with alumni and friends, who immediately recognize his warmth, sincerity, authenticity and intellect.

He has journeyed far and wide for Brandeis — he’s made multiple trips to Israel, India and Europe, and will visit China and Korea in December — to enhance the global presence of the University and ensure that Brandeis continues to be a leader in providing a world-class education for international students.

President Lawrence’s call for alumni to become more involved stewards of Brandeis has clearly resonated with our graduates. Increasing numbers of alumni are engaging with Brandeis in a variety of ways: attending reunions and Alumni Association events, career networking with fellow alumni, offering internships to students, identifying promising prospective students, and making gifts to support key initiatives, including scholarships and fellowships.

I am now in my 20th year as Brandeis’ senior vice president of institutional advancement, and I have never felt such a commitment from our alumni and friends, who have been inspired by President Lawrence.

As we begin to implement Fulfilling the Promise: The Brandeis University Strategic Plan, we will need the support of our alumni and friends. Our development focus will be on securing gifts for endowed faculty chairs and student scholarships/fellowships.

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When should alumni engagement commence?

Q: In your first days at Brandeis, what have you learned about Brandeisians?

A: There is evident passion on the part of students, faculty and staff for the Brandeis academic endeavor and a commitment to the ideal of social justice. It doesn’t seem to matter when alumni graduated, their love for the place and their desire to see it grow and succeed shines through.

Q: What is the key to a successful alumni-engagement program, one that connects alumni to the University and educates them about the importance of continued commitment?

A: Our program has to serve alumni of all generations, we need to connect young alumni to the past and connect older alumni to the present and future. We must do a better job of making alumni understand why their engagement and support are critical to sustaining and building Brandeis’ reputation nationally and internationally. There seems to be an attitude out there that Brandeis is wealthy enough and does not need alumni support. We need to create a culture that values every gift and every touch point.

Q: What plans do you have to enhance alumni programming?

A: It’s important to involve alumni with the academic life of the University through lifelong learning opportunities on campus, online and abroad. I want to build new alumni affinity programs — for international alumni, for former athletes and for those concerned with social justice — that bring together Brandeisians from across the generations who share a common interest. I would also like to create additional excitement around reunions by developing programming that appeals to a broad array of interests. People come back to see their friends, while they are here it’s also an opportunity for them to meet students, engage with faculty, reconnect with campus, visit with the president and learn about Brandeis admissions.

Q: When should alumni engagement commence?

A: We want to begin the lifecycle of engagement the moment that students matriculate. We need to build awareness about scholarships, academics, athletics, social justice and the arts. You must begin building an understanding about the role of alumni while Brandeisians are still students. Doing so requires building partnerships with the Office of Student Life, Office of Admissions and the Haught Career Center so students can build connections with alumni.

Q: Can the Dartmouth model of alumni engagement succeed at Brandeis?

A: Much of Dartmouth’s success stems from sheer longevity and its isolated location in northern New England. Dartmouth engenders a strong sense of place, and students and alumni connect to that place and to one another. I don’t know that you can replicate that sense of place at a suburban Boston campus. It’s important to recognize, however, that when Dartmouth was 65 years old — the age Brandeis is today — it was 1834 and it was a school for clergymen and gentlemen farmers. It did not have the type of international academic reputation that Brandeis enjoys at such a young age. That being said, I fully believe that a committed alumni engagement program will engender continued loyalty and support among Brandeisians of all generations.

New VP seeking to connect alumni with both Brandeis and each other

The new vice president of alumni and university relations at Brandeis, Patsy Fisher, expects to spend her first months at the University engaged in the work of an anthropologist as she endeavors to learn a new culture. She spent the last 25 years at her undergraduate alma mater, Dartmouth College, in a variety of leadership positions in alumni relations and advancement. She helped Dartmouth establish one of the strongest alumni-relations programs in higher education, and also led the integration of the alumni relations and advancement divisions, the same model in use at Brandeis.

She recently sat down with Connections to discuss her first impressions of Brandeis, plans for the future and ideas to spur alumni engagement.

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W hile Reunion 2013 is over, the impact will be felt on the Brandeis campus for many years to come.

The 12 Reunion classes raised $3.2 million for the University — a 25 percent increase from a year ago — in support of Brandeis students and faculty. Nearly 900 alumni, an all-time record, participated in Reunion festivities June 7-9.

“We are pleased that Reunion giving has become as much a part of the Reunion tradition as the Ralph Norman Barbecue, class dinners and the Ice Cream Social,” said Mark Abelman, assistant vice president of development. “Reunion giving is a key component of our Annual Fund program, which supports the University’s top fundraising priorities, including student financial aid.”

The Class of 1963, which observed its 50th Reunion, led the way by raising $1.3 million. Seventy-two percent of the 60th Reunion celebrants (1953) contributed toward their class gift, the highest participation rate among the Reunion classes.

The 5th and 10th Reunion classes tied at 20 percent in their giving is a key component of our Annual Fund program, which supports the University’s top fundraising priorities, including student financial aid.

Led by Class of 1963, Reunion 2013 giving up 28 percent

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Reunion 2013 Committee Chairs

1953 — Marylin Tell Holberg ’53 and Carole Schwartz Kessner ’53, P ’80
1958 — Arline Schwartz Rotman ’58
1963 — No designated chair
1968 — Penny Pressman Bernstein ’68 and Stephen Goldman ’68
1973 — Paul Regan ’73, P ’12 and Jan Solomon ’73
1978 — Brian Lash ’78 and Mark Surchin ’78
1983 — Risa Levine ’83 and Robin Sherman ’83
1988 — Beth Fleischman Zweibel ’88 and Evan Cohn ’88
1993 — Gina Ehrlich Gonchar ’93, Marc Gonchar ’93 and Stephanie Lehman Schutzer ’93
2003 — Daniel Braunfeld ’03, Mara Braunfeld ’03, Gregg Leppo ’03 and Marissa Smilowitz Leppo ’03
2008 — Matthew Brown ’08 and Choon Woo Ha ’08

Reunion 2014 will be held June 6-8, 2014, for the 12 classes ending in 4 or 9 (1954, ’59, ’64, ’69, ’74, ’79, ’84, ’89, ’94, ’99, ’04 and ’09). If you are interested in serving on your class Reunion Committee, email reunion@alumni.brandeis.edu.
James Polite ’15 celebrated his 21st birthday in unique fashion — by hosting a gathering of friends and raising money to support the Myra (Hiatt) Kraft ’64 Transitional Year Program. A TYP student during the 2011-12 academic year and now a Brandeis junior, Polite feels tremendous gratitude toward the program for changing the trajectory of his life. “What I did for TYP is nothing compared to what it has done for me,” he said. “TYP gave me a second chance, and it was a privilege for me to give a little back.”

The modest summer party at Polite’s home in Brooklyn generated several hundred dollars to support the ground-breaking college-access program, which was founded in 1968 following the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. The guest list reflected Polite’s various social circles: friends from Brooklyn, prominent members of New York’s gay community; politicians, including Melissa Sklarz, president of the Stonewall Democrats, and Paul Newell, Demo- cratic leader for New York’s 65th Assembly District; and fellow Brandeisianns Michael Rock ’13 and Afzal Ullah ’14.

At the event, Polite spoke about turning 21 and the significance of the milestone. A formerly homeless teen, he was abandoned by his family when he informed them that he was gay and spent seven years in foster care. “It meant a lot for me to be 21 because I beat the odds by going to college, which most foster children don’t do,” he said. “I recognize that that was a huge opportunity, and I want everyone to have the same opportunities that were afforded to me.”

As it has since its founding 45 years ago, TYP provided Polite and his fellow students with assistance — both in and out of the classroom. The curriculum introduces the students to college-level discussion, writing and debate, while giving them the opportunity for personal growth by being part of a small, intimate cohort. During his TYP year, Polite grew especially close to Director Erika Smith and politics professor Jill Greenlee.

Polite admires TYP namesake Myra (Hiatt) Kraft ’64, a former Brandeis trustee whose many philanthropic endeavors are well known to program students and alumni. He feels that Kraft, who died in 2011, was the embodiment of the University’s commitment to social justice. “There’s a difference between talking and doing,” Polite said. “That’s what Myra did, and that’s what I tried to do with the fundraiser. I think that Myra’s actions are a call to others to work against our country’s educational disparity.”

Polite has been involved in politics since he was 15, first as a volunteer for Brooklyn for Barack and then as a trusted intern for New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn. Even as Polite thrives, he remains aware of those unable to attend college or even graduate high school, and hopes to one day utilize the political system to advocate for disadvantaged youth.

“Myra really looked out for us, and I’m proud that all of you will bear my sweethearts’s name as Myra Kraft Scholars. You couldn’t find a better brand to be associated with.”

Since its founding at Brandeis 45 years ago, TYP has helped more than 1,000 young people earn college degrees. The one-year academic program prepares students who have not had access to the necessary resources either at home or in school to handle a rigorous four-year undergraduate experience.

By the time Myra arrived at Brandeis as a freshman, in the fall of 1960, she already was quite familiar with the University. Her father, Worcester, Mass., businessman Jacob Hiatt, was a visionary early Brandeis leader, and she often accompanied him on visits to campus.

She became a Brandeis trustee in 1986 and served as vice chair of the board for 10 years. Myra also was part of the presidential search committee that brought Lawrence to Brandeis.

Through the years, the Krafts have supported a number of initiatives at Brandeis, including student scholarships and a chair in Arab politics. Consistent with their commitment to interreligious dialogue, the family also established the Myra and Robert Kraft and Jacob Hiatt Professor of Christian Studies at Brandeis, and a similar chair in Judaic studies at Holy Cross, a Jesuit institution in Worcester.

Brady helps celebrate Kraft TYP program

continued from page 1

Giving from Brandeis’ youngest alumni continues to increase

Brandeis is experiencing its own youth movement. Giving among Bold (Brandeisians of the Last Decade) classes is up 31 percent since the launch of the specialized engagement program two years ago, while the Class of 2013 established a Senior Class Gift participation record for the third consecutive year.

“We are thrilled that our youngest alumni are supporting Brandeis at these levels,” said Nancy Winship, P ’10, P ’13, senior vice president of institutional advancement. “It is gratifying to see this type of commitment from our young alumni.”

— Nancy Winship, P ’10, P ’13 senior vice president of institutional advancement

“It is gratifying to see this type of commitment from our young alumni.”

2011 and 2012, President Frederick Lawrence and his wife, Kathy, pledged to make a generous contribution to Brandeis if the Class of 2013 set a new participation record.

In addition, Brandeis established a record for the amount of money raised online in a single year. Gifts totaling nearly $1.1 million came in through the online giving site giving.brandeis.edu, up eight percent from last year’s previous record.

For more information about Bold, visit alumni.brandeis.edu.
Sachar Luncheon

More than 150 people attended the annual Sachar Legacy Society luncheon, which was chaired by Fellow Sally Marshall Glickman ’59, G ’17. President Frederick Lawrence welcomed the attendees and Chris Bedford, the Henry and Lois Foster Director of the Rose Art Museum, gave the keynote address. The Sachar Society is composed of individuals who have included Brandeis in their estate plans.

Atlanta Posse New Student Send-Off

Curtis Tearte ’73 (right) hosted a late-summer reception at his home for members of the Atlanta Posse who were preparing to come to Brandeis to begin their college careers: Justin Cates ’17; Kim Godsoe, assistant provost for academic affairs; Nancy Winship P ’10, P ’13, senior vice president of institutional advancement; Kourtney Mosley ’17; Omar Scruggs ’17; Mike Wagura ’17; Alleah Salone ’17; Adriana Gleaton ’17; and Margot Farnet ’17. The Posse college-access program was established by Deborah Bial ’87.

Alumni Leadership Forum

Alan Braverman ’09 (front row, third from left) visited campus to speak with student leaders as part of the new Brandeis Alumni Leadership Forum. A senior executive vice president and general counsel at Walt Disney, he talked about his time at Brandeis and his career. He then fielded questions from the students about leadership.

Dead Sea Scrolls

Bernice Krupp (right) joined Nancy Winship, P ’10, P ’13, senior vice president of institutional advancement, and dozens of other members of the Justice Brandeis Society, the University’s leadership giving organization, at a special reception and private tour of the Museum of Science’s Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition.
New board chair aims to better integrate Rose into campus life

Lizbeth Krupp, a leading patron of the arts and collector, has been named chair of the Rose Art Museum’s Board of Advisors. Brandeis President Frederick Lawrence announced. Krupp will serve a three-year term as volunteer leader of the Rose, home to one of New England’s principal collections of modern and contemporary art. She is a trustee of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; board member of the American Friends of the Israel Museum; trustee emeritus of the Boston Ballet; and director of the Krupp Family Foundation. In addition, Krupp formerly served on the advisory board for the American Repertory Theatre and co-chaired the New Center for Arts and Culture Task Force.

“We are excited Liz will be leading the Rose Board of Advisors at this important juncture in the museum’s history,” Lawrence said. “Liz will partner with Chris Bedford, the Henry and Lois Foster Director of the Rose, to integrate the Rose further into campus life and to make the museum a destination for art lovers in New England and the Boston community and beyond.”

“I have been given a unique opportunity within the context of this museum’s recent history to work with Chris and the newly formed Board of Advisors to help chart its future,” Krupp said. “As chair, I look forward to helping build the Rose’s reputation within the art world and communicating to supporters that the museum is here to stay.”

Krupp succeeds George Vachter ’73, P ’12, Sotheby’s worldwide co-chair of Old Master paintings.

“Liz’s passion for the arts in general and the Rose in particular makes her an excellent choice to serve in this position,” said Provost Steve A.N. Goldstein ‘78, MA ‘78. “As a collector and a patron of the arts, she has a unique combination of experiences that will make her a real asset to the Rose.”

While a student at Wellesley College, and later as a member of its Davis Museum Advisory Council, Krupp saw the integral role that a great college museum can have in campus life. “It’s an indispensable asset to a college education,” she said. In addition to increasing faculty and student involvement with the museum’s off-campus profile.

“I see myself as an ambassador and advocate for the Rose. It is a virtual treasure trove of modern and contemporary art, perhaps the finest collection of post-World War II art in any university museum in this country,” said Krupp. “Chris has already brought incredible dynamism and vision to the museum, one can almost feel the energy with which he has infused the Rose since his arrival.”

Krupp grew up in Miami Beach, Fla., surrounded by art. Her parents, particularly her mother, nurtured an appreciation for the arts. In her husband, George, a Boston business executive and Brandeis trustee, she found the perfect partner to share her life and love of the arts. They have long believed in the “importance of art within education and, more broadly, as a transformative tool for changing lives,” she said.

The Kruppies built their collection with paintings by late 19th- and early 20th-century American artists, though in recent years they have focused on contemporary art, paintings, sculpture and video. They also collect Greek antiquities, journalistic photography, rare books and antique dolls.

“Liz’s intelligence, sophistication and passion, together with a firm footing in the practicalities of museum work, make her the ideal candidate to lead the Rose board over the next three years,” Bedford said. “She has been an inspiration to me already, and it’s an honor to work closely with her as we write this next, vital chapter in a great museum’s history.”

Gift from Lopater foundation to provide scholarships for students

continue to educate the most promising students without regard to financial need.”

Hans, who died in 2010, served as vice president of marketing at Gillette for many years and worked as a consultant for corporate giants such as Coca-Cola and Dow Chemical. He survived the Holocaust, leaving his home in Vienna in 1938 through kindness and support, a British rescue mission that placed nearly 10,000 predominantly Jewish European children in foster homes, hostels and schools in the days before World War II.

Mavis, Hans’ wife, died in 2012. For 18 years, she volunteered as a psycho-social counselor in addiction services and mental health at Emerson Hospital. An accomplished oil painter who studied at the DeCordova Museum and privately, her work was displayed at many local libraries and the Wayside Inn, a historic site in their hometown of Sudbury, Mass., near Waltham. Most of her paintings were landscapes based on pictures taken during the Lopaters’ travels, but she also painted darker works that were based on experiences in her native England during World War II.

“We are overwhelmed by the generosity of Hans and Mavis, and thrilled that their legacies will live on through the Lopater Scholars.” — Myles Weisenberg ’78, vice president of development

Brandes, so the Lopater's gift had additional significance to her. “I would not have been able to attend Brandeis without scholarship support, so I understand how meaningful this gift is to the University,” she said.

Hans, a Brandeis fellow, and Mavis generously supported the University for many years. They made gifts to the Annual Fund, Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry and music program. The Lopaters were charter members of the Sachar Legacy Society, which is composed of people who have included the University in their estate plans. Barbara Freedman Wand ’72, a partner at the law firm Bingham McCutchen who specializes in estate and charitable planning, worked closely with the Lopaters on their charitable giving. “Hans and Mavis were thoughtful partners in their philanthropy,” Wand said. “They focused much of their philanthropy on causes like the scholarship program that directly support those in need.”

Both Wand and her brother Bill Freedman ’76 were scholarship students at Brandeis, so the Lopaters’ gift had additional significance to her. “I would not have been able to attend Brandeis without scholarship support, so I understand how meaningful this gift is to the University,” she said.

Rose Exhibition Opening

Hundreds of students, faculty, staff and friends of the Rose Art Museum attended the opening reception for the fall exhibitions, which feature work by artists Andy Warhol, Jack Whitten, Omer Fast and Al Loving.
Dedicated alumni leader Gustav Ranis ’52, H ’82, who was the vadlecitron of the University’s inaugural graduating class and later went on to achieve a series of “firsts” during his 65 years as a Brandeisian, died on Oct. 15. The professor emeritus at Yale University was 83.

In addition to graduating atop Brandeis’ Class of 1952, he was also the first alumnus to earn a PhD, be elected to Phi Beta Kappa and join the Board of Trustees. In recognition of his work as a renowned international economist at Yale and his dedication to his alma mater, Ranis received an honorary degree from Brandeis in 1982 and won the Alumni Achievement Award 10 years later (he also accepted the alumni award again in 2012 when his entire class was honored).

“We will miss his voice, his energy and his endless devotion to Brandeis,” Brandeis President Frederick Lawrence said.

Born in Darmstadt, Germany, Ranis left his native country for Cuba in 1941, traveling with his mother, Bettina, and younger brother, Peter ’58, as the borders closed behind them. The family came to the United States in 1943.

After arriving at Brandeis with the first class of pioneers in the fall of 1948, Ranis majored in economics, played for the football team and was active in Hillel. He served as Student Union president in 1950-51 and was senior class president the next year. As senior speaker at Brandeis’ first Commencement in 1952, he shared the stage with Eleanor Roosevelt, who delivered the Commencement address. He met his wife of 55 years, Rachel ’56, at Brandeis.

Following graduation, Ranis stayed connected with Brandeis. He served as president of the fledgling Brandeis Alumni Association in 1953-54 and was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1968. He chaired the academic affairs committee from 1986-93 and served on the budget and finance committee before assuming emeritus status in 1993. Ranis helped organize his 60th Reunion and hosted a Faculty in the Field event for alumni and friends at his Connecticut home in March.

Ranis and his wife generously supported a number of initiatives at Brandeis, including the 1952 Endowed Scholarship that he helped establish with his classmates in honor of their 50th Reunion in 2002. The Ranis’ were charter members of the Sachar Legacy Society, which is composed of individuals who have included Brandeis in their estate plans, and contributed to the Alumni Annual Fund.

“Gus was a role model, not only for members of his class, but for all alumni,” said Nancy Winship, P ’10, P ’13, senior vice president of institutional advancement. “From the very first day that he set foot on campus in 1948, he was an influential member of the Brandeis community.”

Winship worked closely with Ranis for nearly 20 years in her role as the University’s chief fundraiser. “He served as a mentor to me,” she said. “He was always willing to do whatever he could to help Brandeis.”


In addition to his brother and wife, he leaves two sons, Michael and Jonathan, his daughter, Bettina ’80, and four grandchildren, Benjamin, Daniel, Ilanna and Sasha. His nephew Paul ’91, Peter’s son, also graduated from Brandeis.

Grant program will provide students with opportu-
nities for personal engagement, along with academ
cal and professional growth.”

Brandeis’ Schusterman Center for Israel Studies will administer the grant program. “The Eizenstat travel grants are not only intended to encourage Hebrew-language acquisition and formal knowledge of the country, but to offer the opportunity to experience the real-life culture such as working in a company, laboratory, archaeology project, NGO or any program that would enhance the encounter with Israel and its culture,” said Ilan Troen ’63, the Stoll Family Chair in Israel Studies and director of the Schusterman Center.

“This is expected to be a transformative experience.”

Fran, who died of complications from a stroke in February, journeyed to Israel during her junior year through Brandeis’ Hiatt Program. She studied at Hebrew University for a semester, a kibbutz and studied at the Meir Yeshiva in Jerusalem. Brian spent a semester studying in Israel while a student at Emory.

“This program represents a marriage of Brandeis and Israel, both of which were very important components of Fran’s life,” said Stu, a former Brandeis trustee. “She loved the educational stimulation and Jewish values of Brandeis, and made lifelong friends while a student there. The semester abroad in Israel was one of the seminal events of her life. I hope that spending time in Israel will have the same impact on today’s Brandeis students as it did on Fran.”

If not for Brandeis, Fran and Stu might never have met. They were introduced at a dinner hosted by David ’64 and Barbara Boston ’55, while Fran was pursuing a master’s degree in social work at Boston College and Stu was attending Harvard Law School. “From that day forward, we were inseparable, with 45 years of a remarkably happy, fulfilling marriage,” Stu remembered.

Many members of Fran’s family attended Brandeis, including Ruth Gordon Stavisky ’57, P ’84, and Steven Ruby ’74, her cousins; Paula Stavisky Ziskin ’84, Ruth’s daughter, Marvin Ellin ’86, Fran’s nephew; and Matthew Ruby ’08, Steven’s son.

During her professional career, Fran worked on initiatives to strengthen low-income families and improve the lives of children. She worked for the Model Cities anti-poverty program in Atlanta, and pioneered a life-saving Tay Sachs screening program while vice president of the National Council of Jewish Women in Atlanta. The program became a national model to help deal with the deadly disease, which particularly threatens Ashkenazi Jewish children.

Fran moved to Washington, D.C., when Stu joined President Jimmy Carter’s White House staff in 1977 as the president’s chief domestic policy adviser. She worked for the Children’s Defense Fund for two years and then helped lead the White House Conference on Families. Fran later worked in the low-income housing section of Annie Mae. She traveled the world as a member of the international board of directors of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and served on the board of Mazon, the Jewish response to hunger. Fran was a founding board member and a leader of the Defiant Requiem Foundation, which Stu chairs; the organization honors the artistic defiance of the Nazis by the Jewish prisoners in the Theresienstadt concentration camp through concert-dramas around the world, an award-winning documentary, lesson plans for teachers of the Holocaust and an institute that performs workshops created by the Jewish prisoners.

A Brandeis trustee from 1991-96, Stu also worked in the administration of President Bill Clinton (1993-2001). He was U.S. ambassador to the European Union (at Fran’s initiative, they had the first kosher residence in U.S. diplomatic history), under secretary of commerce, under secretary of state and deputy secretary of the Treasury. With Fran’s encouragement and support, Stu also served as special representative of the president and secretary of state on Holocaust-era issues during the Clinton administration, successfully negotiating landmark agreements with several European countries that provided victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution financial and property restitution. He now serves as special adviser to Secretary of State John Kerry on Holocaust-era issues and heads Covington & Burling’s international law prac-
tice in Washington, D.C. He is co-chair of the Jewish People’s Policy Institute in Jerusalem.

For more information or to make a gift in support of the Frances Taylor Eizenstat ’65 Undergraduate Israel Travel Grant, contact JoAnn Leavitt, assistant director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, at 781-736-2152 or jleavitt@brandeis.edu.