

# Brandeis



## TRII OF LIFE

Jonathan Goldman '19 and Victoria St. Jean '19 take a stand on immigration rights

## WU UNMUTED

Yiyi Wu '19 fosters a multifaceted perspective on advocacy and identity

## KATZ'S CRADLE

Don Katz on the neuroscience of the senses, and why Brandeis is a scientist's paradise





# Brandeis

Brandeis is a medium-sized private research university located in Waltham, Massachusetts. We're an inclusive community of students and educators dedicated to providing a first-rate undergraduate education and committed to a mindset of growth and discovery — both of self, and of the kind of knowledge that moves society forward.



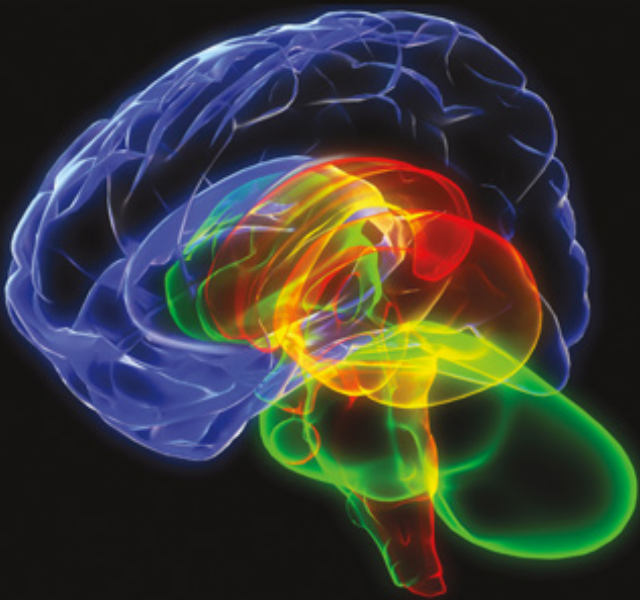
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LIFE AFTER BRANDEIS: Five Brandeisians Living The Dream (and Improving the World)







*Entrées / Entradas* *Visas*

# TRIP OF LIFE

**BRANDEIS STUDENTS TAKE A STAND  
ON IMMIGRATION RIGHTS**

AT FRIENDSHIP PARK, THE ONLY FEDERALLY ESTABLISHED BINATIONAL MEETING PLACE ALONG THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER, FAMILIES SEPARATED BY IMMIGRATION LAWS GATHER ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE TO SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER ON THE WEEKENDS.

SELECTION FROM PHOTO ESSAY BY GRISELDA SAN MARTIN



Jonathan Goldman '19 and Victoria St. Jean '19 help a client through paperwork in their office on Crescent Street in Waltham, leased in partnership with community support organization Watch CDC.



The handbook that holds the keys to a new life in America isn't exactly light reading material.



One of TRII's greatest successes: turning dense legal code into comprehensible, interactive citizenship courses for those of us who are not legal scholars.

“To a certain extent, it’s arbitrary — the experience of being born somewhere,” says Jonathan Goldman ’19. “And that arbitrariness shouldn’t determine how the rest of our lives go.”

Goldman, a double major in politics and philosophy and triple minor in legal studies, economics and social policy, is co-founder of The Right to Immigration Institute (TRII) — a nonprofit organization that trains and certifies undergraduates to represent non-citizens in local immigration court. He is remarkably poised for someone with so many responsibilities on his plate.

His TRII co-founder, Victoria St. Jean ’19, is no less accomplished. She’s a history and politics double major, social policy minor, history department undergraduate representative and research assistant for the Sillerman Center for Advancement of Philanthropy. She shares Goldman’s passion for immigration justice.

“My biggest heartbreak is when you have someone who’s been [in the U.S.] for 20 years, did everything by the book, [is] working, doing well for themselves,” says St. Jean, “and there’s no path to citizenship for them.”

Goldman and St. Jean founded TRII in 2016 with the help of legal studies professor Douglas Smith, and they are the group’s first two Department of Justice-accredited representatives. Between the two of them, they’re working more than 50 cases, a process that can involve everything from language translation, to assisting with paperwork, to attending hearings. They’ve also developed a training curriculum and enrolled 20 more undergraduates in the program, leaving TRII primed to ensure that no one who seeks their services will face the daunting immigration process alone.

For the people they serve, TRII is hitting its stride not a moment too soon. Political realities have anxieties on the rise, even among green card holders.

“I was talking to a Waltham food provider [who] has seen a 20% decrease in people showing up,” says St. Jean. “She said to me, ‘I know there are not 20% [fewer] people who just suddenly don’t need food anymore.’ People are afraid.”

All the more reason to step up their game, the pair says.

“Everyone needs to line up. We need to make sure we really fight,” says Goldman. “We’re here as an ally. We’re here to help. And for them, when we help someone, it’s like, ‘Thank god, I can stop hiding. I can truly call this place home, and no one can deny me that reality.’”

*“To a certain extent, it’s arbitrary — the experience of being born somewhere,” says Jonathan Goldman ’19. “And that arbitrariness shouldn’t determine how the rest of our lives go.”*





# Kofi's Corner

**Two languages, a double major, multiple minors and big plans to make a difference on a global scale: Meet Kofi Owusu-Koranteng '21. He's on a quest for knowledge that knows no bounds, and he's taking advantage of everything Brandeis has to offer.**

Born in Washington, D.C., Kofi Owusu-Koranteng '21 began his education early, when he relocated to Ghana as a young child to live with his aunt and grandmother.

"My parents wanted me to get a sense of our culture, our morals, our dialect," he says of the move. "I think it's essential, understanding origins. It's shaped how I view things, how I do things and how I carry myself."

Owusu-Koranteng says his time in Ghana gave him focus, independence and discipline – traits that have served him well since returning to the States for high school.

A first-generation college student, a double major in business and international and global studies, and a double minor in economics and East Asian studies, it's safe to say Owusu-Koranteng takes the pursuit of knowledge seriously. And he credits the Brandeis community with helping him find his direction.

"This is a place where students know what they want to do and are really passionate about things," he says. "I developed the same attitude."

Just as his perspective is global, so are Owusu-Koranteng's ambitions. Set to spend his junior year abroad at the London School of Economics, he also hopes to attend graduate school in Beijing before taking his talents to the international stage as a diplomat, ambassador or business liaison.

But it's not all work and no play for Owusu-Koranteng. When he's not studying, volunteering with the local Boys and Girls Club or helping other aspiring first-generation college students navigate the application process, Owusu-Koranteng is watching basketball, playing the drums with Fafali, a Ghanaian performance group, or – you guessed it – reading.

"I'm a really reflective person," he says. "I'm willing to do whatever it takes to become more knowledgeable, get more involved in community (and) build as much as I can for Brandeis because this place does so much for me."





# Unmuted

## Yiyi Wu '19 fosters a multifaceted perspective on advocacy and identity.

For Yiyi Wu '19, college has been a journey full of determination and self-discovery. Wu arrived at Brandeis in 2016 from her native China. It was not only her first extended stay in America, but also her first real foray into English language and culture. She could read and write, but learning to listen and finding her voice were a process.

Now she's using that voice to help others find theirs. Wu plunged into learning about different ideas and perspectives on campus by getting involved with organizations such as Brandeis IMPACT's program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, the International Students and Scholars Office and the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life. While this exploration opened her eyes to a range of different issues, one particular conversation caught her attention.

"A lot of people are embracing the discourse around sexuality and LGBTQIA+ rights on campus, which is great," says Wu. "But international students may have different perspectives, and I want to make sure that all these opinions matter on this campus."

With that goal in mind, Wu facilitated a campus visit from Chinese filmmaker Cui Zi'en, director of the documentary "Queer China, 'Comrade' China." And she stepped up her involvement with student-led organizations such as Unmuted, a national collective of Chinese undergraduates aiming to elevate the discussion of LGBTQIA+ rights and sexual education in their homeland.

Her work hasn't gone unnoticed. Wu was awarded the 2018 Katherine A. Chernosky Memorial Award for Conscientious and Creative Living, as well as the Linda Heller Kamm '61 Prize for advocacy and social justice. But to hear her tell it, she's just getting started.

"I'd like to be an anthropology professor one day, because I feel like social justice is a way of enacting a movement [that starts in] an academic setting," she says. "Understanding the discourse helps me understand better how to apply my knowledge to the reality."



**IF YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR YOUR VOICE, OR WANT TO HELP OTHERS FIND THEIRS, LOOK NO FURTHER.**

Here are just a few of the organizations dedicated to providing resources, support and guidance to Brandeis students:

- > Brandeis University Intercultural Center
- > Department of Community Living and Gender Inclusive Housing
- > Brandeis Pluralism Alliance
- > Triskelion (The GLBTQSA Alliance)
- > TransBrandeis

# Marcelle Soares-Santos

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS  
PhD, UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO

## ON HER WORK

**“The expansion of the universe is speeding up, and we have no clue whatsoever about the physical properties of dark energy, which makes up 70% of the universe. Mapping the expansion history of the universe in detail is our only chance to get a few clues. We hope to begin answering some of those questions in the next few years.”**

## ON BRANDEIS

**“What stands out most about Brandeis is the bold, open-minded approach that our community takes to the big challenges of our time — in science, and in society. The more you interact with people on campus, the more you appreciate it.”**

MARCELLE SOARES-SANTOS IS A MEMBER OF THE DARK ENERGY SURVEY COLLABORATION AND THE LARGE SYNOPTIC SURVEY TELESCOPE DARK ENERGY SCIENCE COLLABORATION. HER RESEARCH FOCUSES ON UNCOVERING THE NATURE OF THE ACCELERATED EXPANSION OF THE UNIVERSE USING DATA FROM THE LARGEST SKY SURVEYS EVERY CONDUCTED.





# One Brandeis

## Liora Lilienthal '20 talks tradition, leadership and mutual respect.

“If we’re together in the same environment, we should be working to understand one another,” says Liora Lilienthal '20. “That’s something that Brandeis as a whole strives to do. We all have a place [here], no matter where we come from or what we practice.”

A double major in art history and psychology, a minor in Near Eastern and Judaic studies, a choreographer for the Undergraduate Theatre Collective and a native of Coral Springs, Florida, Lilienthal wears many different hats around campus. Among her other roles, she’s also a board member for the Brandeis Orthodox Organization (BOO) — where she’s developed a unique and insightful perspective on the intersection of cultures at Brandeis.

“I went to a small, all-girls religious high school,” she says. “At Brandeis, I’m with people from so many different cultures. I’ve worked to figure out how my faith fits in such a diverse community.”

She adds, “It’s important for the Brandeis community to be aware of everyone and their practices. [It’s] a place where people of different religions and cultures come together for a common interest.”

On Friday nights, a subset of that diversity is celebrated when as many as six independent groups of Jewish students conduct their own distinct Shabbat services, in accordance with their specific denominational traditions. Afterwards, students of all groups gather for a Shabbat dinner hosted by Hillel, an international organization dedicated to providing a space for Jewish life on college campuses.

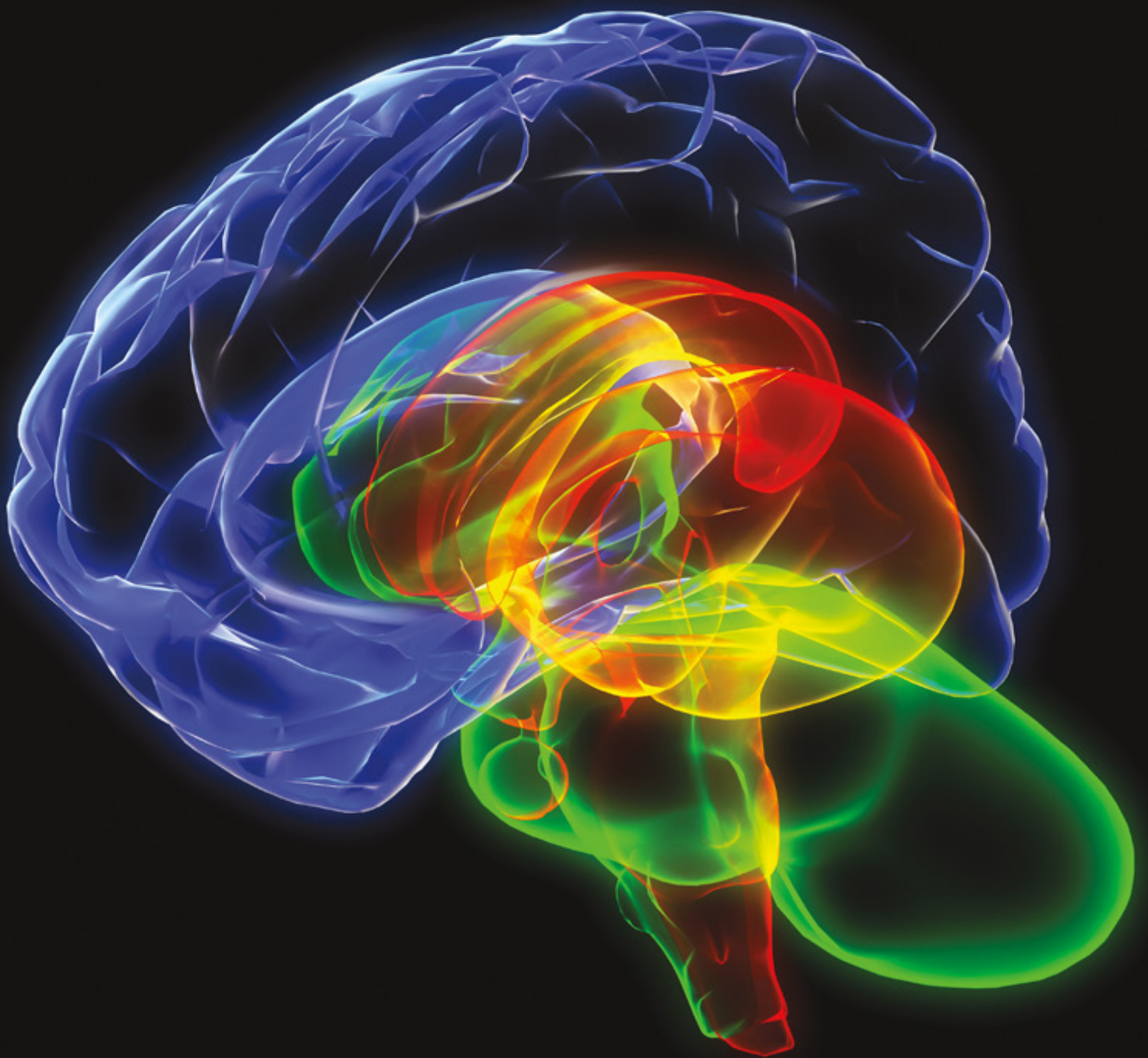
As an orthodox student, Lilienthal says she finds that diversity incredibly valuable. It means her work as a board member for BOO is twofold: She works to serve both her own denomination and the larger Jewish community at Brandeis.

“We work to create the infrastructure for the orthodox Jews on campus, [and] we also work to promote the goal of bringing together all parts of the Brandeis Jewish community, because we’re all here to create that together,” she says. “I think that’s really been one of our main focuses.”

She acknowledges that in any community committed to inclusion, there are bound to be differences in perspective and opinion, but she says that at Brandeis, such challenges are far outweighed by a spirit of mutual respect and an open exchange of ideas.

“One thing I’ve experienced is that if you stay true to who you are and you respect those around you, people will respect you,” she says. “My parents taught me that as a child. At Brandeis, I’ve been able to see it play out. At the end of the day, we’re just one big community.”

Brandeis is a nonsectarian university, meaning it welcomes students, faculty and staff of all backgrounds and beliefs. At the same time, the university is animated by three core values rooted in Jewish tradition — reverence for learning, an emphasis on critical thinking and use of one’s actions and talents to make the world a better place.





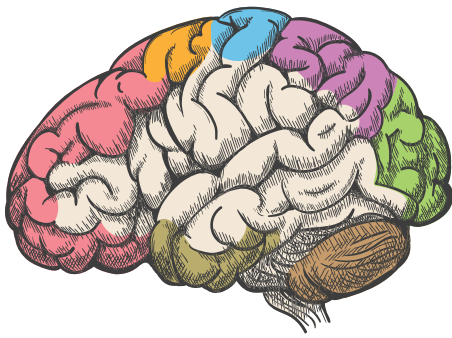


# KATZ'S CRADLE:

DON KATZ  
ON THE  
NEUROSCIENCE  
OF TASTE, AND  
WHAT MAKES  
BRANDEIS A  
SCIENTIST'S  
PARADISE

Katz's research upends a long-standing theory of taste — namely, that there is a designated neuron within the brain that immediately processes every individual flavor.

In fact, the moment-to-moment processing of a taste, whether it's familiar or entirely new, occurs within a group of neurons that evaluate the stimuli in three stages: acknowledging the stimuli, evaluating the stimuli and deciding whether to ingest it.



This theory of neural processing sheds new light on the relationships among taste, vision and scent. The appearance or smell of a given food impacts the way the brain arrives at its decision, which means that if any of those senses aren't functioning properly, the brain has a hard time getting it right.

Katz references a psychological study conducted by a colleague: Take three colorless beverages and have a subject identify them by taste alone — orange, lemon and grape. Easy enough. But add purple food coloring to the orange flavor, and the subject will taste grape — even after being told what she's drinking is orange.

"Something you probably didn't know [is] that your sense of taste is totally unreliable," says Katz. "But the candy companies do know. Some of your favorite candies — candies you would swear come in a range of tastes — all taste the same. [Candy companies] know that your nose and eyes can make you think you're tasting something that's not there."

"I consider myself super lucky," says Don Katz, a behavioral neuroscientist and 16-year veteran of the Brandeis science department. "I'm surrounded by top-notch scientists [on the faculty] who are impacting the world of science. And yet they care about undergraduates and about teaching. That really does set this place apart."

Science at Brandeis, he explains, isn't all about prestige; it's about the work, and a mindset of learning that goes both ways.

Katz's work with mice and rats is emblematic of the interdisciplinary approach common among researchers at Brandeis, blending elements of psychology, biology, math and physics to better understand the neuroscience of taste — and, more broadly, the interdependence of the senses as the brain's primary agents of perception.

"We engage the animal in an exploration of what tastes good and what doesn't, and we look at what causes that," says Katz of the research. "In some cases, it's experience; in some cases, it's senses; in others, it's evolutionarily conserved and important mechanisms."

Katz uses a series of brain implants to observe the moment-to-moment neural processing taking place within the brain as an animal interacts with a certain stimulus. His findings are revolutionizing scientists' understanding of the interplay between the brain and the senses, and they have immediate implications for the human mind as well.

"The job of your sensory systems isn't to just record what's out there. Your eye isn't a camera. Your tongue isn't a piece of litmus paper," he says. "Your brain is like a detective. Every piece of evidence is imperfect and partial, and its job is to try to put it together in a way that makes the most sense."

To summarize: Your brain may not be the supercomputer scientists once believed it was, but it *is* a superpowered sensory sleuth, doing its very best to help you perceive and understand the world. Food for thought.



**“We think that innovation is not just technology, but application of technology. And that innovation is bringing together disparate ideas — that the future of neuroscience is in multidisciplinary work.”**



## Brandeis Debate Club Continues Being Badass

No matter how you slice it, there's a lot to like about the Brandeis Academic Debate and Speech Society — better known as BADASS. We spoke with club president Ravi Simon '19 to get his take on what sets the team apart.

### **CAN WE START WITH THE ACRONYM?**

(laughs) I'm not sure where it came from, to be honest. Brandeis Debate has been around since the '60's [and] BADASS is absolutely how we see ourselves. We've got spunk. There's a lot of passion on this team.

### **IT SEEMS TO BE WORKING OUT WELL.**

Definitely. We've finished in the top 10 pretty consistently over the last decade [including sixth place in 2017 and third in 2016]. Brandeis [may not] have the social capital of some of these behemoth societies like Oxford

and Cambridge ... but the people on our team are really dedicated. [They are] ready to commit and work hard.

### **HOW DO YOU STAY COMPETITIVE?**

We pride ourselves on being super inclusive. Lots of programs have tryouts and cuts and a notion of debate as an activity that is exclusive. Debate helps develop social and professional skills, so we create an environment where people want to learn and get better — we're accepting and encouraging even when we fail. ... People feel like they find a home on this team.

### **ANY BOLD PREDICTIONS FOR THE YEARS AHEAD?**

We're really confident. Thanks to the commitment of everyone on the team, we're in a position now to do maybe even better than we've done recently.

# Throwback Tribute: Leonard Bernstein's Brandeisian Legacy

“This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before.”

That quote, from composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein, captures his zeal for life in the face of stark social and political realities. Bernstein, who joined Brandeis' music department in 1951, believed that in creating and sharing beauty, artists have the power to tip the balance of the world towards peace and unity — just as musicians make symphonies through the intricate joining of disparate melodies.

Every April, Brandeis honors Bernstein's contribution and legacy with the Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts, dedicated to the belief that “the art of an era is a reflection of the society in which it is produced, and through creative endeavors, the thoughts and expression which characterize each generation are revealed and transformed.” Events include musical and theatrical performances, family and children's events, art exhibitions and demonstrations.

At Brandeis, that process of revelation and transformation is a constant theme. As Bernstein said: “We cannot pretend to wisdom, but through performance we can provoke thought and free discussion; through discussing, we can learn; and through learning, we can rediscover our culture and ourselves.”





# Kirb(y) Your Enthusiasm

**With curiosity, drive, and plenty to keep her busy, Kirby Kochanowski '19, MA'19 is a case study in creating opportunities to pursue your passion.**

## **TELL US ABOUT BEING A BUSINESS SCHOOL STUDENT AT BRANDEIS.**

[I'm in] a five-year BA/MA program in the [Brandeis] International Business School (IBS), [in which] senior year of undergrad is also your first year of a two-year master's program. IBS has a very career-oriented, international perspective. It isn't so much theoretical. ... It's very much related to what we're going to be doing in the real world.

## **SPEAKING OF REAL-WORLD APPLICATION, YOU'VE DONE SOME STARTUP WORK, CORRECT?**

Yes. At IBS, there's a mindset of wanting to fix problems in the world. [As part of] SPARK [Brandeis' innovation and entrepreneurship program], we focused on helping tribal communities in India by buying their cloth and turning it into travel accessories for Western markets. I also help scientists shape their business plans and pitches in order to get grants. We just got funding for the next stage [of one of those projects], which is really exciting.

## **AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU HELP RUN THE CAMPUS NEWSPAPER?**

I've been involved with The Justice since my freshman year. ... I took over as features editor sophomore year and then deputy editor this year. [I love] production nights, when everyone comes together and puts out the paper every Monday. ... They can be very long, but it's been a really, really great experience.

## **VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE, I SUPPOSE.**

One thing that I don't want is to be someone sitting behind a desk, running the same data analysis every day, never getting to make decisions with it. I want a career where I get to wear a lot of different hats.

## **ANY IDEA WHAT THAT CAREER MIGHT LOOK LIKE?**

Last summer, I was a management consulting intern at Booz Allen Hamilton. This summer, I'll be a corporate finance intern with Fidelity. ... I'm really looking forward to seeing which one I like more.

## **FINAL THOUGHTS?**

I'm a very naturally curious person, and I was attracted to Brandeis by that freedom to explore. I would just say it's all about balance and being able to just keep doing what you love.

## **INTERESTED IN PURSUING A MASTER'S DEGREE? BRANDEIS OFFERS FIVE-YEAR DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF STUDY:**

- > Biotechnology
- > Comparative Humanities
- > Computational Linguistics
- > Computer Science
- > Education: Teaching
- > Global Studies
- > Hornstein: Jewish Professional Leadership
- > International Business
- > Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
- > Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies





# The Doctor Is In

**Brandeis sociologist and education activist Dr. Derron Wallace talks about a global perspective and educational equity in America.**

## **HOW DID YOUR UPBRINGING IMPACT YOUR DECISION TO PURSUE A CAREER IN EDUCATION?**

I spent my formative years in Jamaica before moving to the Bronx midway through high school. I've lived, interned and worked full time in countries as diverse as Rwanda, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala and England. Educational inequality loomed large in all these countries. Disparities in educational opportunities by virtue of gender, geography, race and social class shaped the trajectories of hundreds of young people I met around the world. I grew more and more convinced that I had to effect change.

## **HOW HAS THAT INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE INFORMED YOUR CURRENT WORK AT BRANDEIS?**

[My international] experiences have afforded me a deep appreciation for difference and motivate me to support Brandeisians in acknowledging and appreciating difference — different languages, cultures, perspectives, epistemologies, histories and identities — as an educational resource.

## **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE FOREMOST CHALLENGES FACING AMERICAN EDUCATION?**

At the heart of my research, I ask: To what extent are historically marginalized groups disempowered in public schools, in spite of political pronouncements that suggest otherwise? Why do we fail to marshal the political will to redistribute resources equitably [and] consistently, so that educational practices in America better reflect the widely held aspirations for the nation? To effectively answer these questions and address the complexities of the U.S. educational system, a broad set of analytical tools is needed. These are portable skills and strategies students acquire through a Brandeis education.

## **HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY CULTURE AT BRANDEIS?**

The academic community at Brandeis is intentionally dynamic, creative and collegial. Close relationships between students and faculty make the university a very special community. Students are studious and kind, earnest and compassionate, collaborative and reflective. Some are quiet and quirky but often eager to transform the communities around them.

Every year, I have a student from my neighborhood in the Bronx, or from Jamaica or from another region of the world I love, enrolled in my class. Such connections enrich mentorship and remind me to regularly recognize that students have much to teach me, too.

**“Brandeis recognizes that deep and meaningful engagement with difference is a prerequisite for effective leadership in the 21st century, nationally and internationally.”**



## Spark It Up: Three Amazing Innovations from SPARKTank 2019

SPARKTank is a new business pitch competition that celebrates Brandeisians who leverage their passion — and the university’s entrepreneurial spirit — to dream up ideas that might change the world. Students, faculty and staff compete as equals for funding and advisory support to make those dreams a reality. Here are SPARKTank startups that have people talking.



### IREMEMBER

Created by undergraduate Olivia Hoy '20 with help from Ryan Xu '22, iRemember is an app designed to help the over 50 million people worldwide with dementia by reminding them of mealtimes, appointments and medications. With the potential to save millions of dollars in healthcare costs, provide dignity to those living with the condition and help elders age in place, it's a high-impact invention born right here at Brandeis.



### LITTLE DOVE STUDIOS

Can media foster understanding between Israeli and Palestinian youth? Little Dove Studios thinks so. Their initial plan includes a graphic novel, which they hope to turn into a feature film. The brainchild of Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence students Andrew Hirsh '20 and Abdul Rehman '19, Little Dove Studios plans to crowdsource plot points for the novel and film, asking Palestinian and Israeli readers to provide input into how the story unfolds.



### SPEECHFLOW

Have you ever sat in class and thought that all presentations look the same? Grand Prize winner SpeechFlow addresses a common challenge in the education sector: making faculty’s slide decks engaging. Developed by Kyung Hyun Kim '19, Huaigu Lin '19 and Sam Ruditsky '20, Speechflow aims to make lectures more dynamic — and save faculty time — by leveraging Google Assistant in a new way. Best of all? The team developed SpeechFlow here at Brandeis.

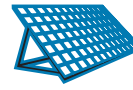
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## Blue Goes Green: 10 Ways Brandeis Embraces Sustainability

Going green means taking action.  
Here's how we're walking the walk  
on campus sustainability.

**BUILT SKYLINE, A STATE-OF-THE-ART  
RESIDENCE HALL AND THE GREENEST  
BUILDING IN BRANDEIS' HISTORY**

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**INSTALLED SOLAR  
PANELS ON THE  
BRANDEIS LIBRARY**

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**INVESTED \$150,000 INTO STUDENT-  
LED SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS**

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**MORE THAN QUADRUPLED  
OUR CAMPUS-WIDE  
COMPOSTING EFFORTS IN  
THE LAST FOUR YEARS**

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**LAUNCHED THE NEW STUDENT-  
LED BRANDEIS SUSTAINABILITY  
AMBASSADORS PROGRAM**

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**DECREASED NATURAL GAS USAGE  
THROUGH A RENEWABLE FUEL PILOT  
PROGRAM**

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**WINTERIZED BRANDEIS' ROOFTOP  
FARM IN ORDER TO GROW  
VEGETABLES YEAR-ROUND**

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**INTRODUCED A CLIMATE CHANGE  
INVESTMENT INTERNSHIP IN  
THE OFFICE OF INVESTMENT  
MANAGEMENT**

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**INCREASED CARPOOLING  
TRIPS THROUGH  
THE RIDESHARE APP  
RIDEAMIGOS**

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**CONTINUED A FOUR-YEAR TREND IN  
REDUCING CAMPUS-WIDE ENERGY  
CONSUMPTION**



# New Age Renaissance Man

## Chris Armstrong '20 on the art of doing it all.

Sword-wielding, Frisbee-flinging, deep-digging Chris Armstrong '20 talks about finding freedom to explore, and making the most of everything Brandeis has to offer.

### CHANGING HIS MIND IN SEARCH OF A CALLING

Armstrong came to Brandeis interested in HIV microbiology — specifically, vaccine research. But he discovered a whole new passion after enrolling in an Egyptian class. “I found myself really enjoying it,” he says, “and decided it was something I wanted to try seriously.” He joined Brandeis’ archaeological chemistry team and then traveled with them to a dig in Greece. “Brandeis does a great job [of] encouraging exploration.”

### A FASCINATION WITH FENCING ...

Always an athlete but never much for “traditional” sports, Armstrong came to Brandeis searching for something different. “I saw a flyer for the fencing club, [so] I went,” he recalls. “The people were fantastic, so I stuck with it.” He says Brandeis’ fencing-loving fan base takes fun to the next level. “People come to watch because they want to know something about that world where everyone wears white suits and masks and wields swords. It’s really fun.”

### ... AND THE FREE FLOW OF A FRISBEE

Armstrong’s other athletic passion sits on the opposite end of the sports spectrum. “I really like the natural feeling of Ultimate Frisbee,” he says. “It has a ... flowy-ness to it. It’s a very fun culture.” But fun doesn’t mean it’s not intense: Brandeis Ultimate may be a club sport, but it’s serious business. “Ultimate Frisbee at Brandeis is the equivalent of a varsity sport,” he says. “It’s eight hours a week. You’re watching film. You’re going to the gym to get better.”

### HAVING FUN (AND STAYING BALANCED) WHILE DOING IT ALL

Between two sports and a full-time course load, Armstrong has a full plate — but he’s making it work and loving every minute of it. “Being effective with my time doesn’t mean doing my homework 24/7,” he says confidently. “It means taking a break, eating lunch outside, hanging out with friends and getting enough sleep. The biggest thing, I think, is that I genuinely want to do everything that I’m doing.”

**NO MATTER WHAT YOUR GAME IS, YOU CAN PLAY IT AT BRANDEIS. IN ADDITION TO OUR 19 CLUB TEAMS AND 29 INTRAMURAL LEAGUES, VARSITY PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

- > Men’s Baseball
- > Women’s Softball
- > Women’s Volleyball
- > Men’s and Women’s Basketball
- > Men’s and Women’s Cross Country
- > Men’s and Women’s Fencing
- > Men’s and Women’s Soccer
- > Men’s and Women’s Tennis
- > Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving
- > Men’s and Women’s Track and Field



# So Sohaima

**Whether she's helping to kick-start local economies in Central America or elevating the dialogue about ethnic and religious tolerance on college campuses, one thing about Sohaima Khilji '20 is clear: She never worries about biting off more than she can chew.**

“What I've learned is that the busier you are, the more productive you become, and the more energized you are to put in the best work you can,” says international global studies and history double major Sohaima Khilji '20. “Don't be afraid to push your limits.”

Khilji pushed those limits during her freshman year when she traveled with Brandeis Global Brigades to Honduras during winter break. “We worked with members of a local community to help [them] establish their own businesses,” she says. “We spent a week talking to the people of the village we visited — seeing what their economic needs were [and] what kinds of businesses they were interested in starting. We helped them develop business plans. It was really exciting.”

That summer, invigorated by her experience abroad, Khilji landed an advocacy internship with the Council on American-Islamic Relations — work that she says was formative in its rigor. Her responsibilities included drafting six-figure grant applications for the organization and creating a consolidated history of Muslim-American relations that spans 200 events over the last two centuries. “We wanted to educate and empower Muslim-American youth and show them how far back our history goes,” she says.

Khilji's commitment to advocacy continued to flourish this year when she organized a campus visit from Muslim spoken-word poet Amal Kassir as part of 'DEIS Impact, a weeklong festival of social justice which is a collaboration between the Brandeis Undergraduate Student Union and the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life. Kassir performed a reading and spoke about Islamophobia in America.

“Brandeis attracts a lot of students who are all about making change in the world, and 'DEIS Impact gives you the freedom to explore the issues you're passionate about,” Khilji says. “There's something [at Brandeis] for everyone. Don't be afraid to get involved.”



**GOOD INTERNSHIPS LEAD TO SPECTACULAR CAREERS. JOB PLACEMENTS FOR RECENT BRANDEIS GRADUATES INCLUDE POSITIONS AT:**

- > Amazon
- > Huntington Theater Company
- > Federal Reserve Bank
- > Google
- > Goldman Sachs
- > Massachusetts General Hospital
- > Teach for America
- > U.S. Department of Justice

# Right on Track

## Emily Bryson '19 joins the pantheon of Brandeis University's greatest athletes.

Emily Bryson '19 has been on the run her whole life. Her destination? Greatness. With a quick detour into the history books along the way.

With thirteen University Athletic Association (UAA) titles, eight All-American nods and three NCAA Division III Track and Field national championships in the 3000-meter, 1-mile and distance medley relay under her belt, Bryson is one of the most decorated athletes in Brandeis' history. She's the university's first women's track and field individual champ since 1997, and she shattered the school's previous 3000-meter record — held since the late '80s — by a full six seconds.

"It was a really surreal and emotional moment, watching all the hard work come together," said Bryson of the Division III win. "When I came to Brandeis, I told myself that my goal was to become a national champion. That it happened three times is a dream come true."

Getting there has taken more than just physical training. "Being mentally strong is one of the most important components of being a runner," she says. "I like to think my mental fortitude is something that I have over my competitors. It's something I'm always working on."

Still, it's not always easy. Bryson admits that juggling the realities of a varsity training schedule with rigorous academics sometimes requires her to dig deep. "It can be tough at times," says the double major in biology and the Health: Science, Society and Policy program. "But being surrounded by teammates who care so much has been key in developing into a disciplined student and athlete."

Now that she's achieved her goal of a national title three times over, she won't be resting on her laurels. The goal now is to keep running with a local club while pursuing a career in clinical research.

### BRANDEIS ATHLETICS IN THE LAST DECADE:

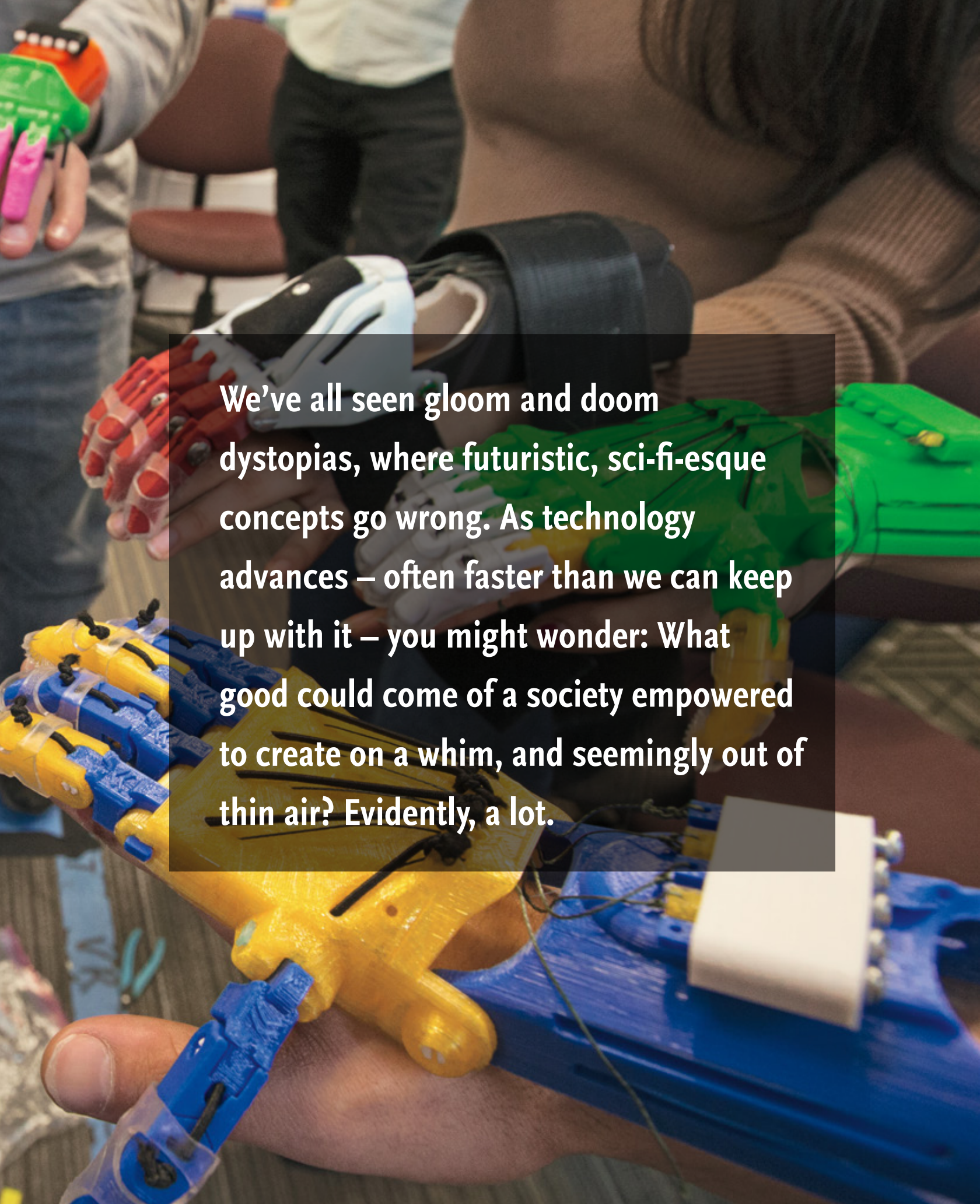
- > 24 individual NCAA championships
- > 24 NCAA Division III tournament berths
- > 10 ECAC New England crowns
- > Nine teams nationally ranked
- > Three NCAA Final Four appearances







**LENDING**  
*a hand*

A person is shown from the chest down, wearing a prosthetic right hand. The hand is primarily blue and yellow, with a black wristband. The fingers are blue and yellow, and the palm is yellow. A black sensor array is attached to the back of the hand. The person is holding a blue and yellow prosthetic hand. In the background, other people are visible, some wearing prosthetic hands of various colors (green, red, white).

We've all seen gloom and doom dystopias, where futuristic, sci-fi-esque concepts go wrong. As technology advances – often faster than we can keep up with it – you might wonder: What good could come of a society empowered to create on a whim, and seemingly out of thin air? Evidently, a lot.

**“Technology can be used altruistically,” says Tassone. “I hope our success will inspire others to be creative and use technology to give back to the community.”**

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Just ask the Brandeis Prosthesis Club (BPC), a student-run organization with a quintessentially Brandeisian mission: Use the resources you’ve got to better the lives of those in need.

BPC designs, prints and assembles custom-fit, low-cost prosthetic hands in the Brandeis MakerLab — an inventor’s paradise of 3D printers, virtual reality headsets and other high-tech gear — and works with the nonprofit network e-NABLE to distribute them to children in need.

“Making the connection between technology and helping people is what really drew me in,” says BPC’s Alison Tassone ’18 of getting involved with the club. “It was eye-opening, and it feels great to work together to build a device that could make a difference in someone’s life.”

BPC’s work has enormous potential impact. Insurance will often cover the cost of an initial prostheses, which typically costs from \$5,000 to \$10,000, but is less likely to pay for replacements as children grow. But with BPC’s plastic models priced at only \$30 and \$50 each, waiting until adulthood for a functional prosthesis may become a thing of the past.

“Technology can be used altruistically,” says Tassone. “I hope our success will inspire others to be creative and use technology to give back to the community.”

BPC has big plans for the future, too. It’s looking to expand into true neuro-sensor and motor-based bionics, all while staying true to its low-cost roots. And it will continue its weekly volunteer work with the Junior Brandeis Achievers (JBA) after-school program, teaching Waltham elementary school students the basics of prosthetic assembly and nurturing an understanding of the power of technology to do good in the world.

Does it get more utopian than that?



Since 2014, the Brandeis MakerLab has served as the hub of cutting-edge technological learning and creation on campus. Free and open to any member of the Brandeis community, it offers weekly trainings and workshops to help you become a certified Maker in Residence — opening the doors to the full suite of tools, including digital fabrication, digitalization and 3D scanning, embedded systems and virtual and augmented reality.

A nighttime photograph of a street scene. On the left, a multi-story brick building has large, multi-paned windows that are brightly lit from within, showing people dining. A colorful sign is mounted on the building's facade. In the foreground, there are flower boxes with pink and yellow flowers. On the right, a sidewalk with a brick pattern leads away from the camera. A street lamp with a glowing globe stands on the sidewalk, and several people are walking. The sky is a deep blue.

EIGHT MUST-TRY  
MEALS ON  
**MOODY  
STREET**



#### **SUPER-FANCY DATE NIGHT**

Solea // Must try: Paella, short ribs, churros

#### **FAST DELIVERY FOR FLAVOR EMERGENCIES**

NY Pie // Must try: Genovese pizza

#### **MELT-IN-YOUR-MOUTH SANDWICHES**

Gustazo Cuban Cuisine // Must try: Pan con Lechón with yuca fries

#### **BIGGEST BAAN-G FOR YOUR BUCK**

Baan Thai // Must try: Crispy chicken or vegetarian Pad Thai

#### **A BUDGET-FRIENDLY PHO-FORWARD FEAST**

Pho #1 // Must try: Classic Korean-style fried chicken

## **No bones about it. Moody Street in Waltham is a foodie's paradise.**

From upper-crust Cuban, to authentic Pho, to mouth-watering weekend brunch, there's a culinary treasure for every palette — all just down the street from Brandeis. Here are a few of our favorites:

#### **THE "TREAT-YOURSELF-TO-LUNCH" LUNCH**

Moody's Deli // Must try: Dan's Grilled Cheese with house-made truffle chips

#### **FAMILY DINNER FOR A VISIT FROM THE 'RENTS**

Tempo // Must try: Portuguese Fisherman's Stew

#### **LATE MORNING (OK, EARLY AFTERNOON) WEEKEND BRUNCH**

In a Pickle // Must try: Pancakes. (Just trust us.)







**“I think what we’re seeing in this moment is how important ethical leadership is. The system needs healthy disruption. Students owning their voice and their power – that’s how you strengthen a democracy. That’s how you move a culture forward, a community forward, a nation and our world forward.”**

**– SAM VAGHAR '08  
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
MILLENNIUM CAMPUS NETWORK**



# LIFE AFTER BRANDEIS:

FIVE BRANDEISIANS LIVING  
THE DREAM  
(AND IMPROVING THE WORLD)

## ADAM CHEYER '88: FOUNDER OF SIRI, INC. AND CEO OF VIV LABS

Arriving at Brandeis as a new undergraduate, Adam Cheyer '88 thought he'd seen it all when it came to computer science.



Then he took a logic programming course with Professor Tim Hickey. "It literally blew my mind every day," Cheyer says. "It seemed like magic."

That magic has made a profound impact on Cheyer's life. Since graduation, he has founded four different tech companies — including Siri, Inc., the team behind that helpful robot assistant programmed into more than half a billion Apple devices. And with his latest venture, Viv Labs, he's set his sights on perfecting the virtual assistant.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

"When I entered Brandeis, I didn't have it all figured out — how to get work done, how to be organized and how to really be a great student. Over time, I learned. And I got good at it. I launched two companies and was a founding member of a third, all at the same time. People asked, 'How did you juggle all this work?' I said, 'Well, I believe that you can do more than you think you can.' I learned that at Brandeis."

## OHAD ELHELO '16, MA'17: FOUNDER, OUR GENERATION SPEAKS (OGS)

Israeli Ohad Elhelo '16, MA'17 found in Brandeis a student community deeply engaged in productive dialogue around the long-standing conflict of his homeland. Inspired by that open discourse and by the support of Brandeis' professors and administrators, Elhelo founded OGS — a fellowship and startup incubator that works in partnership with the Heller School for Social Policy and Management to connect young leaders from Israel and Palestine through entrepreneurship and trust-building. His work has gained national attention, as he was selected for Forbes magazine's "30 Under 30" list, which recognizes business visionaries who are younger than 30.



### WORDS OF WISDOM

"Leaders who have been in office for many years are navigating the future based on assumptions they've developed over decades. Many times, those assumptions are that there are many reasons to be afraid, [but] not many reasons to be optimistic."

“My generation speaks a different language. When I speak to Israelis and Palestinians my age, no one ever imagines lives full of conflict and violence. ... We understand there are tremendous challenges ahead in order for us to live happy lives. We also understand that this is possible in a way that I think older generations do not anymore.”

**LIANE HYPOLITE '10: PhD CANDIDATE, USC ROSSIER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

When Liane Hypolite '10 and her family moved from Boston to the suburb of Stoughton, Mass., during high school, she noticed that something was amiss. Not with



Stoughton, mind you, or with her family — but with the entire American system of education.

“That [educational] disparity, over [such a] short distance, was a big red flag for me,” she says. Informed by

her coursework and by insights gained through work at the Intercultural Center and as a senior admissions interviewer, Hypolite learned more about education inequity in America. She put that newfound knowledge into action after graduation, serving as dean of college and career advising at Codman Academy, an innovative charter school in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood.

Today, she is a co-chair of Brandeis' Alumni of Color Network and is pursuing a PhD in urban education with a concentration in higher education. Her goals: embracing new approaches to improve college persistence, retention and graduation, and fostering racial and economic integration in America's colleges.

**WORDS OF WISDOM**

“[Brandeis] was a beautiful space in which to cultivate my own identity and be connected with all different types of people. ... There was a spectrum of perspective[s] that I found really valuable. I was impressed by the thoughtful debate and discussion — not just in the classroom, but around campus and in the dorms. It was about learning as much as we could to make an impact in the world.”

**JOSH KANTOR '94: ORGANIST, BOSTON RED SOX**

Josh Kantor '94 has always been a music man. But he wasn't always an organist — and he never dreamed he'd land the holy grail of gigs for musicians who also happen to be fanatical baseball fans. “For someone who loves baseball and playing organ music ... this is the dream job,” he says. “I'm very lucky, and I don't take that for granted.”



Kantor spent his time at Brandeis exploring a variety of performance settings — most notably as an accompanist for improv theatre group False Advertising. He says that experience, in particular, has served him well in his profession by teaching

him to think on his feet and bring spontaneity to his music.

**WORDS OF WISDOM**

“I found [Brandeis] to be a very supportive, active, creative community. Dabbling in different things gave me a certain versatility. ... If the thing you're looking for isn't right in front of you, take the initiative. Make it happen. Good things happen for people who have the courage to initiate that first step.”

**GENEVIEVE OLIVEIRA '15: TERRITORY AND PROGRAM MANAGER, GOOGLE CLOUD**

“College years shape who you become,” says Genevieve Oliveira '15. In her time at Brandeis, Oliveira took



advantage of opportunities to become a leader through her work as the Waltham Group coordinator and Alumni Reunion coordinator, to name a few — and these experiences made her stand out when interviewing at Google.

As a Wien Scholar from Brazil, Oliveira appreciated being a part of a program that truly cares about students and provides intercultural dialogue, something that has served her well when working with partners in her native Brazil. She found that the Brandeis community had a “mutual responsibility for each other; people want to help each other.” One of her biggest professional accomplishments was turning one of Google Cloud's biggest competitors in Brazil into a partner — very Brandeisian, indeed.

**WORDS OF WISDOM**

“Brandeis is a safe place to make mistakes, put yourself out there and try something that scares you. There is always something new and exciting that is within your reach. You have to immerse yourself in the community and stretch yourself out of your comfort zone to get the most out of it.”

# Majors and Minors

**We offer 44 majors and 51 minors here at Brandeis.**

Majors include the traditional academic disciplines in the sciences, social sciences, humanities and the creative arts, plus programs focused on interdisciplinary topics (such as environmental studies or comparative literature) or regions of the world (such as East Asian studies or Islamic and Middle Eastern studies). Additionally, preprofessional advisory programs can help you track your way to careers in medicine, business, law and education. The curriculum evolves continuously as new interdepartmental programs are added, but here's the latest list:

## MAJORS

African and African American Studies  
American Studies  
Anthropology  
Applied Mathematics  
Art History  
Biochemistry  
Biological Physics  
Biology  
Business  
Chemistry  
Classical Studies  
Comparative Literature and Culture  
Computer Science  
Creative Writing  
East Asian Studies  
Economics  
Education Studies  
English  
Environmental Studies  
European Cultural Studies  
Film, Television and Interactive Media  
French and Francophone Studies  
German Studies  
Health: Science, Society and Policy  
Hispanic Studies  
History  
Independent Interdisciplinary Major  
International and Global Studies  
Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies  
Latin American and Latino Studies  
Linguistics  
Mathematics

Music  
Near Eastern and Judaic Studies  
Neuroscience  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Politics  
Psychology  
Russian Studies  
Sociology  
Studio Art  
Theater Arts  
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

## MINORS

African and African American Studies  
Anthropology  
Arabic Language, Literature and Culture  
Architectural Studies  
Art History  
Business  
Chemistry  
Classical Studies  
Comparative Literature and Culture  
Computer Science  
Creative Writing  
Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation  
East Asian Studies  
Economics  
Education  
Education Studies  
English  
Environmental Studies  
Film, Television and Interactive Media  
French and Francophone Studies  
German Studies  
Health: Science, Society and Policy  
Hebrew Language, Literature and Culture  
Hispanic Studies  
History  
History of Ideas  
International and Global Studies  
Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies  
Italian Studies  
Journalism

Latin American and Latino Studies  
Legal Studies  
Linguistics  
Mathematics  
Medieval and Renaissance Studies  
Music  
Near Eastern and Judaic Studies  
Peace, Conflict and Coexistence Studies  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Politics

Psychology  
Religious Studies  
Russian Studies  
Sexuality and Queer Studies  
Social Justice and Social Policy  
South Asian Studies  
Studio Art  
Theater Arts  
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Yiddish and East European Jewish Culture



# Come to Brandeis.

**We seek students from all backgrounds and walks of life who want to make the most of their college experience.**

If you're intellectually curious, interested in broadening your horizons and committed to social justice, then you'll fit right in at Brandeis.

## ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

### APPLICATION DEADLINES

APPLY BY  
NOTIFICATION SENT BY

### EARLY DECISION I

NOV. 1  
DEC. 15

### EARLY DECISION II

JAN. 1  
FEB. 1

### REGULAR DECISION

JAN. 1  
APRIL 1

### MYRA KRAFT TRANSITIONAL YEAR PROGRAM

FEB. 1  
APRIL 1

## TEST-OPTIONAL POLICY

We believe that offering greater flexibility in the admissions materials requirements will allow applicants to provide a better representation of their academic capabilities. This policy is consistent with recommendations from the National Association for College Admission Counseling and from the College Board on use of standardized tests.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.BRANDEIS.EDU/ADMISSIONS/APPLY](http://WWW.BRANDEIS.EDU/ADMISSIONS/APPLY).**

## FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

As a high-achieving student, you may be looking for a college that will support you in accomplishing your goals. As one of the smallest research universities in the country, Brandeis offers our undergraduates access to unparalleled academic opportunities that are supported by world-renowned faculty.

As part of our application process, all students will be thoroughly considered for merit aid and, with a few exceptions, will not be required to submit any additional materials to support their candidacy.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR NEED-BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, VISIT [WWW.BRANDEIS.EDU/SFS](http://WWW.BRANDEIS.EDU/SFS).**

# Fellowships

**Our fellowship programs offer opportunities for students to pursue their interests in specific academic areas while providing personalized attention from key faculty leaders. Here is just a sampling of the fellowships we offer:**

## **LEONARD BERNSTEIN FELLOWSHIP**

This fellowship, which encompasses a highly selective instrumental chamber music program, provides a select number of accomplished instrumentalists the benefits of private lessons, additional performance opportunities and up to a \$20,500 renewable scholarship.

## **HUMANITIES FELLOWSHIP**

Awarded to a select group of the most promising admitted students with an interest in the humanities, Humanities Fellowships provide an annual scholarship of up to \$20,500 as well as a small, one-time stipend. Fellows take part in an intensive seminar, working directly with humanities faculty.

## **QBREC FELLOWSHIP**

The Quantitative Biology Research Community (QBReC) is an interdisciplinary undergraduate community that promotes cross-departmental collaboration among students and faculty. Fellows will receive an annual scholarship of up to \$20,500, take part in an intensive fall seminar and conduct an in-depth research project in one of six participating labs, all within their first year on campus.

For more information about fellowships and other scholarships, visit [www.brandeis.edu/admissions/scholarships](http://www.brandeis.edu/admissions/scholarships).

# Come Visit!

**We offer tours and information sessions Monday-Friday and select weekends throughout the year and hold open-house programs for prospective students in the fall and spring.**

Student-guided tours are offered most weekdays when classes are in session and on select Saturdays. All tours depart from the Office of Admissions in the Shapiro Admissions Center at the foot of campus.

**CHECK OUT THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF VISITING OPPORTUNITIES AT [WWW.BRANDEIS.EDU/ADMISSIONS/VISIT](http://WWW.BRANDEIS.EDU/ADMISSIONS/VISIT).**

## **CONTACT**

Brandeis University  
Office of Admissions  
415 South Street  
Waltham, MA 02453

781-736-3500  
[admissions@brandeis.edu](mailto:admissions@brandeis.edu)

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