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Fri, Jun 21, 2024 at 9:50 AM

*A newsletter for Brandeis GSAS Alums
June 21, 2024*



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Dear GSAS Alums,

As many of you may already know, Brandeis is thrilled to congratulate Dean Wendy Cadge on her appointment as the next president of Bryn Mawr College, even as we are saddened to say goodbye to someone who has had such a positive impact on our campus community.

Having served since January as the interim Dean while Wendy was on leave, it's with a mix of excitement and humility that I look forward to dropping the "interim" and working with my colleagues here in GSAS to strengthen and to innovate all we do in graduate studies. Serving in an interim position, the tasks are mostly focused on immediate needs and keeping things going smoothly, moving ahead with the course set by one's predecessor. Moving away from that perspective on the immediate, though, and to a longer-term vision, allows our team to do what we really needs to do: look closely at the shifting landscape of graduate education and employment opportunities for our students, keep what is working so well for our graduate programs, and identify opportunities to improve, innovate, strengthen and grow our doctoral and master's training. In all of this, we welcome and will seek your input as experts who have deep insights into the student experience at Brandeis and the professional pathways that follow.

On campus, while we've entered the quieter days of summer, GSAS is still hard at work preparing for our incoming and returning students, and looking back on a year of successes for our community. Please read the announcements and

articles below and join me in celebrating the achievements of our students and faculty.

Warm regards,
Charles

1. Stories from GSAS



[2024 University Prize Instructors Contribute to University Culture of Learning](#)

Four GSAS PhD students received a Spring 2024 University Prize Instructorship (UPI), the result of a competitive process in which they designed and were selected to teach their own upper-level undergraduate courses. The four helped their students learn and learned a lot from them, growing as instructors and helping expand the university's offerings.



[2024 GSAS Graduates Share Reflections and Advice](#)

On Sunday, May 19, 2024, Brandeis University held its 73rd Commencement. Following graduation, newly minted GSAS alums will be heading on different paths. Here, some graduates reflect on their experiences at GSAS and their plans for the future. (Photo credit: Dan Holmes.)



[GSAS Students Earn Prestigious External Grants for 2024 and Beyond](#)

In recent months, students in Brandeis University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences have earned a variety of prestigious external grants and fellowships for the upcoming academic year. GSAS talked to four of these students, from the Sociology, Physics, History, and Anthropology PhD programs, about their research, what they're looking forward to in the upcoming year, and what advice they have for other students pursuing grant applications.



[GSAS Honors Outstanding Student Instructors with 2024 Teaching Awards](#)

For 2024, Brandeis University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences honored students across programs with the annual Graduate Student Teaching Awards. These awards go to graduate student instructors or teaching assistants who have

made great contributions in their programs. (Photo credit: Simon Goodacre.)



GSAS Students Shine in 2024 Three Minute Thesis Competition

On April 5, 2024, GSAS students participated in the 2024 Three Minute Thesis Competition, Brandeis's third. They presented their research in three minutes for a general audience, won prizes, and gained valuable skills along the way. (Photo credit: Dan Holmes.)



Building Community Through the GSAS Career Fellows Program

While graduate school is a notoriously busy place, it's always a good choice to make time to think about career planning and the future. The Brandeis University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Professional Development team supports students through this often tricky process through a variety of programming and services, including the Career Fellows Program. Now in its third year, the program brings together students across departments who are committed to career exploration, building a cohort who connect with each other while attending a range of professional development workshops, informational talks, and networking sessions.



GSAS Celebrates Students Through 2024 Graduate Appreciation Week

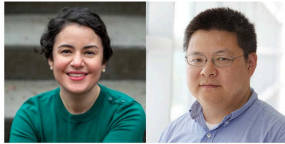
From April 1 through 5, 2024, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Brandeis University held its second annual celebration of National Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week. This event, started in 1993, is dedicated to celebrating graduate students across fields. (Photo credit: Becky Prigge.)



Career Development for the Sciences Group Helps GSAS Students Explore Options

While Division of Science graduate students are hard at work in their labs, they're also beginning to think about their plans for life after graduate school. Here to help is the Career Development for the Sciences (CDS) group, which organizes programming, including workshops and many guest speakers, to help students get a sense of the many paths available to them and the skills they need to get there.

Sociology and Chemistry Faculty Members Win 2024 GSAS Mentoring Award



Sarah Mayorga of Sociology and Bing Xu of Chemistry are the 2024 co-recipients of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Mentoring Award. In their nominations, Mayorga and Xu both received high praise from their students.

Geeking Out With...Student Profiles

In the Geeking Out With...series, in which we talk to GSAS students about their passions, GSAS recently talked to [Manning Zhang of Sociology](#) about her research into Boston gymgoers, [Anna Valcour of Musicology](#) about her work in the world of opera, and [Brynna Kilcline of Computational Linguistics](#) about her love of reading.

The image shows three promotional cards for the 'Geeking Out' series. Each card features the Brandeis University logo, the title 'Geeking Out with [Name]', a quote from the student, a portrait photo, and a QR code with the text 'Read the interview here'.
 - **Manning Zhang:** "Every PhD student finds a unique path. There's no right or wrong answer when it comes to choosing research interests, but those who end up in a more comfortable place often follow their hearts and choose projects they are passionate about." Fifth-year PhD student in Sociology and Social Policy.
 - **Anna Valcour:** "When I was thinking about quitting [opera singing], my thought was musicology so I could marry my interests in music and history; music had become such an integral part of my life, more than I had allowed it to be when I was younger. Experiences I had in the industry have impacted what I research and how I do it. There is a lot of social activism in my work because of what I experienced and the reasons my friends and I have left the industry." Rising fourth-year PhD student in Musicology.
 - **Brynna Kilcline:** "I actually find that I tend to read more when I'm super stressed because I need a break. For example, at the end of the semester, I will be super overwhelmed. I'll set a timer on my phone to read for fifteen minutes and then go back to work. It's a good de-stresser, and I think taking the breaks makes me work better when I do get back to work." Second-year master's student in Computational Linguistics.



English PhD Program Featured in ACLS Article

The PhD program in English was recently featured in an article from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). The article discussed the recent changes that the program's faculty have made to the curriculum.

2. On-Campus Happenings

Deanship Transition

Dean Wendy Cadge has been named the [tenth president of Bryn Mawr College](#) and will assume her new role on July 1. Interim Dean Charles Golden, Professor of Anthropology at Brandeis, will take on the role of permanent Dean of GSAS. We extend our warmest congratulations to both Wendy and Charles!

Announcement: Graduating Student and Alum Email Accounts

Brandeis.edu accounts that many alums use to log into email and other services will be discontinued effective January 7, 2025. This change aligns with industry best practices and improves email security. Over the coming months, information will be shared with alums to support them through this transition and ensure continued access to available alum resources.

As part of the initial communication to the Brandeis alum community, Brandeis also announced the launch of a new alum portal called [My Brandeis Gateway](#). This new online resource enables alums to update contact and employment information, search the alumni directory, and submit class notes. This is a great time to update your email address, particularly if you are still using your Brandeis email address to receive messages!

New alums who graduate in May 2024 and beyond will retain their student [@brandeis.edu](#) accounts during a seven-month grace period following commencement.

Professional Development

[Schedule an appointment](#) with our professional development team this summer in-person or virtually to explore diverse career options, review your resume and/or CV, and more!

Ice Cream Truck Success!

GSAS hosted an ice cream truck for students on June 13, 2024. A good time was had by all!



3. Alum, Student, and Faculty News

Habiba Tani Braimah, MA '20 in Sociology, has been appointed the new [Senior Director of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations](#).

Emily Duden, PhD student in Physics, has been selected as the [co-recipient of the 2024 Chasman Award](#) at Brookhaven National Laboratory for Women in Physics. The Chasman

Award is awarded annually to exceptional candidates in STEM to honor the memory and scientific contributions of the late Renate Chasman, a noted physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Judith Eisen, PhD '82 in Biology, professor and department head of biology and neuroscience, Institute of Neuroscience, University of Oregon, Eugene, has been [elected to the National Academy of Sciences](#), one of the highest honors a scientist can receive.

Ethan F. Helfand, MA '11 in NEJS, has been named the new [Executive Director of KU Hillel](#).

Dr. Hannah Jung, PhD '23 in History, will be joining the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Alabama in the fall.

Dr. Sherwood C. Lewis, PhD '63 in Molecular Biology, [passed away on February 27, 2024](#). He was one of the first African-Americans to receive a PhD from Brandeis.

Ambassador Deborah E. Lipstadt, MA '72, PhD '76 in NEJS, was recently [interviewed by The Telegraph \(UK\)](#) about the global rise in antisemitism.

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