

**[Test] Brandeis GSAS Faculty Newsletter for May 2024**

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Brandeis University GSAS <gsas@brandeis.edu>

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BrandeisGRADUATE SCHOOL
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

GSAS Faculty Newsletter

May 6, 2024

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Dear Colleagues,

We find ourselves at a moment of significant change at Brandeis and in GSAS, with some challenges to face in coming years, but also many opportunities and much to celebrate.

First, while we will deeply miss Dean Wendy Cadge at Brandeis, where she has long been a leader in the classroom, as a scholar, and in her administrative roles, we all are thrilled to wish her well as she embarks on her new role as President of Bryn Mawr. Personally, I owe Wendy a debt of gratitude for all I have learned as I followed in her footsteps as Division Head of Social Sciences and now in GSAS. While I cannot replace Wendy, I hope to carry forward her initiatives in support of our graduate community and to work with you all to strengthen graduate studies in new ways in the coming years. As I shift from the interim to a longer-term role here, my thanks particularly to the amazing staff of GSAS who have been terrific (and patient) guides since January.

Speaking of celebrating change, we are also looking forward to the major event in honor of all that the members of our graduate community have achieved in your years at Brandeis: Commencement! It can be easy to skip over the details in the newsletters that come through your inbox, but please read through the message below for all the upcoming dates and deadline reminders for our students for Commencement. Note too that on May 14 we will be enjoying a less formal, but no less important, social event in honor of graduation at the Charles River Museum, and I hope that you will join us.

Finally, in what is perhaps the best part of serving in GSAS, I was touched and inspired to read our student nominations of many faculty across campus for this year's GSAS Dean's Mentoring award. We are grateful for the efforts of all faculty on their students' behalf - know that the students recognize and appreciate it. Selecting a winner from all the nominees was

no easy task, but I'm pleased to congratulate professors Sarah Mayorga (Sociology) and Bing Xu (), who were presented with their awards at the faculty meeting in April,

As always, if you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to contact any of us in GSAS - that's exactly what we're here for.

All best,

Charles

1. Academic Announcements

AI Surveys

As we approach the end of the spring semester, GSAS would like to remind faculty of the early dissertation or master's thesis/paper/capstone project completion tuition waiver policy, which would apply to students who plan to complete an August degree. All students must register for the term in which they plan to complete their degree. PhD students should register for CONT 500 (in fall or spring) or CONT 250 (in summer), and master's students should register for CONT 200 (or the department equivalent). If a student completes their dissertation or master's thesis/paper/capstone project within ten (10) business days of the [first day of classes for that term](#), or, in the summer, within ten (10) business days of Commencement, they will receive a full tuition waiver. Completion is defined as follows:

For a PhD dissertation or a master's thesis: Deposit of the dissertation or thesis to ProQuest ETD. For more information about this process, visit our [Thesis and Dissertation Guide](#).

For a master's paper or capstone project: Acceptance of the paper or project by the program. Students should immediately [notify Abigail Arnold](#) once the paper or project is accepted.

Students should complete the [application to graduate](#) as soon as it is available for the semester.

Library Announcements

Moodle Course Support for Members of the Brandeis Teaching Community

The library invites you to sign up for a [Moodle workshop](#) or visit the [Brandeis Moodle Getting Started documentation](#). The Library's [Instructional Technologists](#) are here to help you in the move to Moodle 4!

Library Research Excellence Prizes

[The Library's Research Excellence Prize](#) recognizes students who apply sophisticated information literacy skills to the selection, evaluation, and synthesis of sources for a research project. They have prizes in nine different categories, including prizes for graduate student research, community-engaged research, digital projects, research related to racism and anti-racism, climate change-related research, and research that makes use of materials in the Brandeis University Archives & Special Collections. Please encourage your students to apply! **The application deadline is May 14, 2024.**

2. Student Life Announcements

Commencement Deadlines at a Glance

- **May 6** - Regalia pickup for students begins in Brandeis Bookstore and runs through Commencement Day
- **May 7** - Deadline to RSVP to cocktail reception
- **May 14** - GSAS Commencement Reception, 6-9 PM, [Charles River Museum](#), Waltham
- **May 19** - Graduate Commencement Ceremony, 2:45 PM (students must arrive at 1:45 PM for line up at the exterior tunnel entrance (near the baseball field) of the Gosman Sports and Convocation Center)

Note: If students missed the **April 19th deadline to register to walk in the May Commencement Ceremony**, they should [contact the Registrar's Office](#) to request to be added to the commencement list. Students may visit the Brandeis Bookstore, starting May 6, to select regalia from their overstock inventory

For general commencement information, please visit the [Commencement 2024 Website](#).

For information specifically for faculty participating in the ceremony, please visit the [Information for Faculty](#) page.

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 alum directory, and submit class notes.

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

For academic departments and centers/institutes that manually maintain their own lists of alum constituents with [@brandeis.edu](#) email addresses, Alumni Relations will provide updated lists. If you have questions or require assistance with lists of alum constituents, please [contact Alumni Relations](#).

Fall 2024 Graduate Department Reps

Becky Prigge will email program administrators and graduate directors in mid-August with a spreadsheet where you can note your GDR changes as they become available. GSAS will contact the GDRs directly to ensure they have submitted the proper paperwork needed to be paid the stipend at the end of the semester.

As a reminder, GDRs receive a \$125 stipend at the end of the fall and spring semesters. Due to expected budget cuts for the next academic year, GSAS will only provide a stipend for two GDRs per program moving forward. If a program would like more than two GDRs, the stipend will need to be covered by the program through GTR. While the stipend is small, it becomes a significant portion of the overall student programming budget due to the number of

programs we have. We're trying to stretch whatever we get for next year to serve as many students as possible!

3. Funding Opportunities

THANK YOU from Academic Fellowships

The Academic Fellowships team sends the following message:

This year, with the help of countless devoted faculty members, Brandeis students and alumni won a record-breaking number of academic fellowships, including two Goldwater Scholarships, a Truman Scholarship, a Udall Scholarship, a Boren Scholarship, and ten Fulbright Scholarships. We are so grateful to you for sending students our way, for advising and mentoring them, for writing supportive, substantive letters of recommendation, for serving on our screening, selection, and mock interview committees, and for every other way you have supported our office and championed your students as they pursue these life-changing opportunities. Thank you for your partnership!

Sincerely,

Meredith Monaghan, Executive Director of Academic Fellowships

Elizabeth Rotolo, Associate Director of Academic Fellowships

4. Student, Faculty, and Alum News

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.

Career Development for the Sciences Group Helps GSAS Students Explore Options

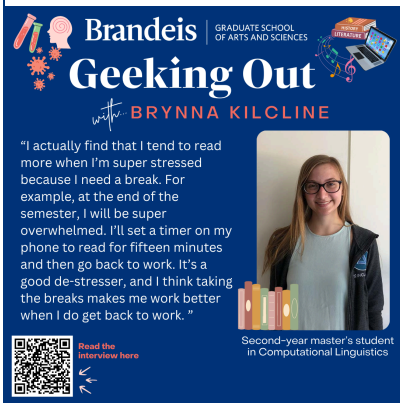
While Division of Science graduate students are hard at work in their labs, they're also beginning to think about their plans for life after graduate school. Here to help is the [Career Development for the Sciences \(CDS\) group](#), which organizes programming, including workshops and many guest speakers,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

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.

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.



Geeking Out
with **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."

Read the interview here

Second-year master's student in Computational Linguistics

Geeking Out With...Brynna Kilcline

In this installment of Geeking Out With..., a series in which we talk to GSAS students about their passions, Computational Linguistics master's student [Brynna Kilcline](#) talks about her love of reading and how it helps her de-stress.

GSAS Students Win Mandel Awards

For the 2024-2025 academic year, six GSAS students received research awards and four received dissertation innovation awards from the Mandel Center for the Humanities. The winners are:

Graduate Student Research Award Winners

- Tamar Aizenberg**, Holocaust Remembrance through the Eyes of Grandchildren: The Descendants of Survivors and Perpetrators in Vienna
- Anik Chartrand**, Animating Belonging: The Role of Animate Objects in Native American and First Nations Novels
- Sungkyung Cho**, Poetry and Self-Love: Thomas Love Peacock and the Poet's Amour-Propre
- Lianne Gallant**, Tracing the History of Chinese Adoption in the American Social Welfare Archives
- Sargam Sharma**, The Remaking of Life and Death: Mortuary Practices and the Promise of "Development"
- Alexandra Szabo**, A Prolonged Genocide: The Sterilization and Castration of the Hungarian Roma and Jews in National Socialist Camps

Graduate Student Dissertation Innovation Awards

- Sreemoyee Bhattacharya**, Elegiac Forms in Play: Documenting Grief from the Perspective of a Child
- Savita Maharaj**, Reclaiming Women's Voices: Afro-Caribbean and Indo-Caribbean Women's Resistance in 18th and 19th Century Post-Colonial Literature
- Sahid Mondal**, Photographing Secularism: A Visual Ethnography of the India-Bangladeshi Border
- Gowthaman Ranganathan**, 'Choreographing Possibilities: Tamil Transfeminine Performance in Post-War Sri Lanka'.

History PhD Student Co-Organizes Conference

Alexandra Szabo, PhD student in History, co-organized the conference Romani Roots, Shared Stories, which took place at Yale University on April 4. She also presented her own research in a talk entitled "The Genocide of the Lovara."

History PhD Alum Earns Faculty Role at University of Alabama

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

6. Upcoming Events

GSAS Events

- [GSAS Commencement Cocktail Reception](#), Tuesday, May 14, 6-9 PM, Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation. Faculty can [RSVP for the reception here](#).



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