

Rose publishes Grippe catalog

The Rose Art Museum has published the catalog "Peter Grippe," which is the first



comprehensive publication of the artist's oeuvre. Grippe (1912-2002) is considered by

many to be a significant figure in late 20th-century American sculpture. After joining the fine arts faculty at Brandeis in 1953 he also became the first teacher of sculpture and graphics at the university. The publication was funded in part by a grant from the Judith Rothschild Foundation.

Drug license option granted

Brandeis and Brigham and Women's Hospital agreed to grant a license option to New Jersey-based Amicus Therapeutics for a jointly developed novel pharmaceutical technology that could be instrumental in finding new treatments for Gaucher Disease. Biochemists Gregory Petsko, Dagmar Ringe and Raquel Lieberman, each affiliated with both Brandeis and Brigham and Women's, invented a patentable technology related to the structure of acid beta-glucosidase, also known as GCase, and methods for identifying therapeutic agents.

BEMCo cited for excellence

The Brandeis Emergency Medical Corps recently received a Striving for Excellence award from the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation. The award recognizes BEMCo's quality in the delivery of patient care, high standards of professional education, and service to the community in fulfillment of its mission of providing emergency medical services to its campus.

Brandeis Reporter

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MIKE LOVETT

African beat

Mariama Bailo Diallo plays the djembe on campus March 2 during the MusicUnitesUs Education Outreach Program for Waltham public schools. Diallo is a member of Amazonas: Women Master Drummers from Guinea.

Artists united in their grief

Bowls exhibition fosters reconciliation

Brandeis will be the first stop on a nationwide peace tour featuring Israeli and Palestinian artwork. The exhibition, titled "Offering Reconciliation," will showcase 135 ceramic bowls used by the artists to express their interpretation of the intrinsic values of reconciliation: coexistence, pain, loss, fracture and fusion.

"Offering Reconciliation" was commissioned by the Parents Circle-Families Forum, a grassroots organization of bereaved Israelis and Palestinians that promotes reconciliation as an alternative to hatred and revenge. Along with the Parents Circle, the U.S. exhibitions will be co-presented by the Association of Israel's Decorative Arts (AIDA), a nonprofit dedicated to exposing contemporary decorative artists from Israel to an international audience.

The Israeli and Palestinian painters, sculptors and photographers created one-of-a-kind pieces from identical ceramic bowls — a com-

Reconciliation, continued on Page 6

Seeing Katrina's ghost: Scholars take front-row seat

By David E. Nathan

Like many college students, a group of two dozen Wien Scholars headed south for last month's winter break. But sun, sand, and surf were not on their minds; instead, the Brandeis students spent the week helping residents of a flood-ravaged Louisiana community still reeling from Hurricane Katrina.

The trip was part of a new volunteer service initiative for Wien Scholars put in place after discussions with the family of Lawrence A. Wien, the late former chair of the Brandeis Board of Trustees who endowed the Wien International Scholarship Program. Since its inception nearly a half-century ago, the Wien program has provided fi-



Hurricane Katrina took its toll on the tiny town of Buras, La.

Katrina, continued on Page 8

WhoWhatWhere

Chris Bobel, a visiting research associate at the Women's Studies Research Center, delivered a public lecture, "When the Private Becomes Public: Feminist Activists Encounter the Body and Taboo," on Feb. 21 at Beloit College in Wisconsin.

Martin Bruckner, PhD '97, an associate professor of English at the University of Delaware, has been named the winner of the Louis Gottschalk Prize of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. The award honors his book "The Geographic Revolution in Early America," published in 2006. Bruckner received his doctorate in English.

Jaime Capra and **Caitlin Malcolm** of the women's basketball team were selected as two of 40 finalists for NCAA Division III All-America honors by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, making them eligible for the 10-member All-America team.

Jason Carmichael, a first-year student in genetic counseling, has been selected as a 2007-2008 Boston Albert Schweitzer Fellow. The U.S. Schweitzer Fellows Program enables students in health professions and related fields to carry out direct service projects in underserved communities in the United States. The mission of The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship is to reduce disparities in health and healthcare by developing "leaders in service."

Steve Cecchetti, the Barbara and Richard M. Rosenberg Professor of Global Finance at the International Business School, served as co-

director of the March 9 U.S. Monetary Policy Forum, co-sponsored by the Rosenberg Institute of Global Finance at Brandeis.

Lance Gould '87, a veteran New York journalist, has been named editor of the alternative weekly newspaper The Boston Phoenix. Gould, 41, is a former deputy manager of the New York Daily News, former executive editor of Spy and Men's Fitness magazines, and contributor to a wide variety of publications. He starts his new job in April.

Dominic Hodgkin, associate professor at the Heller School's Schneider Institute for Behavioral Health, authored a study published online in "Clinical Therapeutics" that reports that private health plans increasingly rely on escalating co-payments to manage psychotropic drug costs, as opposed to administrative controls.

Constance Horgan, director of the Institute for Behavioral Health at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, led a study published in "Psychiatric Services" that showed that most commercial health plans provide online information regarding mental health and substance abuse but few provide clinical services such as counseling via the Internet. The nationally representative health plan survey is one of the first to examine the prevalence of health plan-sponsored online resources for behavioral health.

Jytte Klausen, professor of comparative politics, served on a panel, "Headscarves and Holy Days: Should the Law Make Exceptions," on Feb. 7 at Boston College.

Robert Moody, Laurie Professor of Theater Arts, received a Distinguished Achievement Award this month from the U.S. Institute of Technical Theater for his work in scenic design.

Seung-Ah Oh, PhD '05, a former lecturer in music, is one of two composers who will receive a 2007 Goddard Lieberman fellowship of \$15,000, which is given to midcareer composers of exceptional gifts. The fellowship, endowed in 1978 by the CBS Foundation, is awarded by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, which honors more than 50 composers, artists, architects and writers each year with cash awards.

Betsy Plumb '01 recently appeared as an onscreen narrator on "Shoot Out," a History Channel show about an Army division traveling from North Africa to Germany during World War II. Plumb majored in history at Brandeis and moved to New Orleans, where she taught elementary school.

Jonathan Sarna, the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History, delivered a lecture, "American Jewish History Backwards and Forwards," on Feb. 27 at the University of Dayton.

Robert Sekuler, neuroscientist at the Volen Center for Complex Systems, coauthored a study in the journal "Public Library of Science Biology" confirming the Newtonian idea that sight and sound are indeed parallel—at least when it comes to encoding and retrieving short-term memories from the two senses. More than three centuries ago, Sir Isaac Newton reflected on the similarities between the sense of hearing and the sense of sight but his speculations were impossible to test scientifically, until now.

NowYouKnow

Erich Schumann, Adjunct Professor, International Business School

What you know: Schumann, a specialist in corporate governance, teaches coursework at IBS in fraud detection and prevention. He is also the chief executive officer of Global Atlantic Partners LLC, a business consulting and recruiting company.

What you don't know: When he's not in the classroom or boardroom, Schumann, a native of Germany, is also a semi-professional race car driver. He can be found dashing around the tracks of New England race courses in Formula Dodge cars. He's set his sights on a wider field of competition. "I will take the 'Advanced Racing Car School' and will receive the Competition License for the USA, which in turn will enable me to participate in the racing car series for seniors," he said. "For many years it was a big dream of mine. A year ago I decided to fulfill my dream—and I can tell you it is one of the most exciting hobbies I ever had."



The following students are working this semester under the Student-Scholar Partnership, which pairs undergraduate women and men with Women's Studies Research Center scholars and faculty affiliated with the Women's and Gender Studies Program: **Danielle Angel, Ricki Berkowitz, Hannah Cohen-Cline, Leah Edelman, Rachel Edricks, Kirby Einhorn, Jodi Ellenbogen, Avi Goldman, Kendra Harrison, Molly Haas-Hooven, Liz Imber, Michelle Iorio, Emily Kadar, Rachel Kagen, Rebecca Kolber, Elana Kieffer, Kim Leiken, Alexandra Main, Ben Mernick, Naman Sanjay Pugalia, Brooke Rosenbauer, Jenna Rosenbloom, Hadar Sayfan, Mathew Schutz, Rachel Stampfer, Coral Waters, Shayna Weiss, Katherine Willard** and **Mieke Windecker**.

New York artist Dana Schutz will auction off a new sculpture created to benefit the Rose Art Museum during an event on March 24. Members of The Rose will have a chance to bid at the event, which will be attended by **Jehuda Reinharz**, Brandeis president, **Michael Rush**, the Henry and Lois Foster Director of the Rose, and the Board of Overseers of the Rose Art Museum. Schutz was an artist in residence during the winter of 2006 during the "Dana Schutz: Works from 2002-2006" exhibition.



MIKE LOVETT

Legendary actors Roy Scheider and Patricia Neal, hand in hand at the film festival at Brandeis earlier this month, were as gracious as they were accessible to a crowd of excited admirers.

Lights, cameras, SunDeis

Live and up close with the stars at student film festival

By Marsha MacEachern

As Roy Scheider stood at the podium during the SunDeis Film Festival awards ceremony at Brandeis he told the crowd that he's proud of being an actor, and "if we don't talk and tell stories I think we'd go mad." The actor shared a new story with the audience, saying he "had a crush" on his fellow SunDeis honoree, actress Patricia Neal.

Scheider, an Academy Award nominee probably best known for his role as police chief Martin Brody in the 1975 film "Jaws," and Neal, an Academy Award winner and leading lady of the golden age of Hollywood, received lifetime achievement awards at the fourth annual festival (March 3, 4). They also interacted with the Brandeis community following screenings of Scheider's "All That Jazz" (1979) and Neal's "A Face in the Crowd" (1957). Several student-produced films were also screened and honored during the weekend.

During the awards ceremony the stars expressed their gratitude at being recognized during the student-organized festival.

"They've done marvelous and I'm sure they're working on a peanuts budget," 74-year old Scheider joked. "But it's been very nice . . . The film was presented very well and the audience was very receptive."

Neal, 81, told the crowd that her life has been filled with joy, love and success but has also been "riddled in tragedy and great loss." While shooting a movie in 1966 she suffered three massive strokes that left her partially paralyzed and temporarily unable to speak. She eventu-

"When faced with a challenge, I want to tell you what has inspired me: Refuse to be beaten."

ally recovered and rekindled her career with an Oscar nomination for "The Subject Was Roses" in 1968.

"When faced with a challenge, as you will be, I want to tell you what has inspired me . . . Refuse to be beaten," the actress said.

During the awards ceremony there were a few minor technical glitches while Scheider and Neal film clips were being played, but even that didn't disrupt the spirit of the evening. Scott Feinberg '08, the festival's director of special events and guests, said Scheider later pulled him aside and said he was proud of what the students had accomplished and that he and his daughter enjoyed their visit to Brandeis.

"I was very touched, and I decided that if it's okay with him it's okay with me," Feinberg said.

Feinberg also expressed "profound gratitude and appreciation to the many students, faculty, and others who were instrumental in making this year's festival a success."

Scheider said he hopes there will someday be a major film department at the university. On another note, with several lifetime achievement awards in tow, he'd like to earn more. He's currently working as an actor and producer on a television film series in Italy, which he says will cover the lives of renaissance artists.

QuoteUnquote

“I was shocked to see the kind of devastation that still exists.”

Nikhil Agarwal '08, speaking about his recent visit to the hurricane-ravaged area of Buras, La.

MustSee

**Jewish Film Festival:
The National Center for Jewish Film's
10th Annual Film Festival
April 12 to 22**

Wasserman Cinematheque on the Brandeis campus and one screening at The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston.

Highlights include:

"2 or 3 Things I Know About Him"
Critically-acclaimed German documentary by filmmaker Malte Ludin, son of a prominent Nazi executed in 1947, exploring how his family denies and represses its history.

"Fence, Wall, Border"
U.S. premiere of a three-part film by Eli Cohen about Israel's separation fence. Cohen will join a panel of scholars and public-policy experts in a discussion following the film.

"Dear Mr. Waldman"
To commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day, writer-director Hanan Peled will present his beautiful coming-of-age story about growing up the son of Holocaust survivors in mid-century Tel Aviv.

For tickets or more information, visit www.jewishfilm.org or call 781-736-8600.

BackwardGlance

10 Years Ago: With a \$1 million gift, Fred and Rita Richman of Great Neck, N.Y., create a distinguished visiting professorship at the university.

5 Years Ago: Brandeis researchers Wei Hua, Johnson Chung and Jeff Gelles pinpoint the crucial mechanism of kinesin, a motor protein that powers cells.

1 Year Ago: The university, in conjunction with five of the country's leading medical schools, launches a five-year study to explore underrepresentation of women in senior positions in academic medicine.



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Million-dollar meeting

Five local professors, including Brandeis' Irv Epstein, right, gathered on campus March 14 to discuss reinvigorating undergraduate science education. Each professor has received \$1 million from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Learning as conflicts drag on

Courses look at politics and cultures of the Middle East

As conflict in the Middle East continues to dominate the headlines and spark international debate, the next generation of policy makers and scholars are demanding more courses about the Middle East, hoping to better understand the politics and cultures of the region. To address this growing interest, the Crown Center for Middle East Studies created three new courses about the modern Middle East. Each of the courses, being offered this semester, approaches the Middle East from different and innovative angles.

"What distinguishes these courses from more traditional approaches to the study of the Middle East is their unique juxtaposition of theory and practice, and the bottom-up approach taken by the instructors to the topics at hand," said Professor Shai Feldman, director of the Crown Center for Middle East Studies.

"Arms Control in the Middle East" (POL 170A) is taught by Feldman, who served as a member of the U.N. Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters from 2001 to 2003.

On the heels of recent international interest in Iran's nuclear ambitions, students are exploring and analyzing the theories behind, dynamics within, and problems encountered with arms control as part of regional security in the Middle East. Contemporary case studies, including Iran, Iraq, Israel and Libya, are being used to stimulate discussion about verification, compliance, supplier regimes and major arms control treaties.

"The Economics of the Middle East" (ECON 122B) is co-taught by Mohammed Samhouri and Eric Graber, economists and senior fellows at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies. Graber is a former advisor at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Samhouri is a former economic adviser to the minister of planning and minister of foreign affairs in the Palestinian Authority.

The course presents students with an overview of the region's economies drawing on theories, policy formulations and empirical studies of economic growth, trade, poverty, income distribution, labor markets, finance and banking, structural reforms, globalization and the Arab-Israeli political economy. Special attention is being paid to the important

differences in economic structures of the region's countries and the role of petroleum in national development.

"Modern Middle East History through the Arts and Popular Culture" (NEJS 183A), taught by Naghmeh Sohrabi, a postdoctoral fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies, provides the historical background and theoretical tools necessary for the study of culture in the Middle East. Popular films, novels and comic books created by Middle Easterners that address pivotal political and historical events are being juxtaposed with academic writings on the same issue. Students are also examining the question of representation and memory, and how this history has been remembered and re-told within the region itself.

Kanan Mohamed Makiya, professor of Islamic and Middle Eastern studies and faculty chair of the Crown Center for Middle East Studies, is again teaching "War and Reconstruction in Iraq" (NEJS 195B) and "Political Cultures of the Middle East" (NEJS 197B). Baghdad-born Makiya wrote "Republic of Fear," which became a bestseller after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1991.

"War and Reconstruction in Iraq" examines the origin, legitimacy and nature of the outgoing regime against the backdrop of enormous social upheaval and the politics of occupation, democratization, constitutionalism, sectarianism, remembrance and insurgency. "Political Cultures of the Middle East" looks at the way in which people make assumptions about power, authority and justice. Students will explore the nature of political power in Israel, Turkey, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Iraq.

Courses previously taught by Crown Center staff members include "U.S. Policy in the Middle East," co-taught by Professor Feldman and Geoffrey Kemp, director of regional security studies at the Nixon Center in Washington, D.C., and "Conflict and Peacemaking in the Middle East," which is team-taught by Feldman and two senior fellows—Khalil Shikaki, director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in Ramallah, and Abdel Monem Said Aly, director of the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo.

Taking aim at a UN prediction

Joan Kaufman has helped China confront its HIV dilemma

By Carrie Simmons

The world's most populous country could be faced with 10 to 15 million HIV cases by 2010, according to the United Nations Program on AIDS. That's if strong measures are not taken to control the spread of the disease in China, where an estimated 650,000 people are already living with HIV.

Joan Kaufman has spent the last 10 years working to prove the UN prediction wrong.

Now senior scientist at the Heller School's Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Kaufman worked in China from 1980 to 2001, first for the United Nations Population Fund and later for the Ford Foundation.

For much of that time, the Chinese government denied the growing AIDS epidemic, and one of Kaufman's foci at the Ford Foundation was mobilizing the government response to the AIDS epidemic in China. When Kaufman returned to the United States in 2001, she founded the AIDS Public Policy Program based at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

The program brings AIDS experts from Harvard and other Boston-area universities and institutions together with a Chinese faculty convened by Tsinghua University in Beijing. Twice a year, the group travels to different provinces in China to educate government officials about AIDS as a development issue, multisectoral programs and policies, and instituting international best practices for prevention, treatment and impact mitigation for the AIDS response.

"The government in China, partly as result of our program, has really owned up to the AIDS epidemic and is doing a lot of great things," said Kaufman, who joined Heller in 2003.

China's Central Party School, the top training center for most of the party's middle and high-ranking officials, is now coordinating its own program for government officials modeled after Kaufman's AIDS Public Policy Program. The government has also implemented free HIV testing and treatment, and free services for pregnant women to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

Kaufman, who recently edited "AIDS and Social Policy in China," the first English language book about the AIDS epidemic in China, is now redefining the program's mission in China to focus on other challenges to the AIDS response, including the government's resistance to working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

"The government will never be able to reach drug users, sex workers, migrant workers and gay men, who avoid government sponsored programs," said Kaufman, who earned her doctorate at Harvard's School of Public Health. "Support from NGOs for outreach to these groups as part of the AIDS response is critical, but in China,



MIKE LOVETT

they are still seen as a threat to the government."

Kaufman's "AIDS and Public Policy" course at Brandeis addresses these types of challenges and gives students an overview of the global AIDS epidemic. Students in her course examine the public policies required to address the AIDS epidemic, as well as how the AIDS epidemic is undermining development gains in many countries like China and Vietnam, the other site for Kaufman's AIDS Public Policy Program. The Vietnam program was launched in 2005 in collaboration with Vietnam's Party School, the Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy and the U.S. government-sponsored Health Policy Initiative.

Kaufman's next project at Brandeis involves 400 AIDS orphans in central China whose parents have died or are ill with AIDS contracted through an unhygienic paid blood donation scheme. The children, who are featured in the Academy Award-winning documentary "The Blood of Yingzhou District," live with relatives or foster parents and receive financial support from the AIDS Orphans Salvation Association, but they lack psychological support.

Kaufman is seeking funding for a study that would evaluate whether counseling using group interpersonal therapy conducted by trained lay

"These children are stigmatized...They have been blighted by this horrible epidemic."

people is successful in helping AIDS orphans who suffer from depression and anxiety.

"These children are stigmatized and mourning the loss of their parents," said Kaufman, who is also a staff consultant for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. "They have been blighted by this horrible epidemic."

Kaufman, author of "A Billion and Counting: Population and Family Planning Programs in the People's Republic of China," is also an adviser to a group of senior Chinese researchers and policy makers who are using demographic data like the skewed age ratio and the distorted sex ratio to try to convince China's senior leadership of the urgent need to do away with China's one-child population policy.

Later this spring, Gu Baochang, a researcher from the People's University of China, will visit Brandeis to talk about the project.

Experiential learning enriches curriculum

By Caroline Litwack '03

After watching an episode of "Sesame Street," then 5-year-old Kimberlee Bachman '08 decided she wanted to learn sign language. Many years later, still captivated by the way hearing-impaired people communicate, the junior sociology major has been able to pursue her interest in sign language through Brandeis's Experiential Learning Program.

In January 2005, Brandeis launched Learning by Doing: Deepening Liberal Arts Education through Experiential Learning, a project funded by the Davis Educational Foundation that enables students to explore their interests in and out of the classroom.

Experiential learning opportunities range from internships to scientific research to field-based experience, and often take students beyond the Brandeis campus. Students may pursue projects that are as close as a local farm or a world away through Study Abroad.

Through the Experiential Learning Program, Bachman served as a summer intern at the New York Society of the Deaf, where she taught hearing-impaired immigrants professional communication skills. "As the only hearing person teaching people older than me, I needed to gain their respect, and I grew with them," she said. "The internship was my most challenging experience up to now."

Determined to bring the knowledge and insight from her summer experience to Brandeis, Bachman is pursuing an independent study project with biology professor James Morris to develop a course on deaf communications at Brandeis. She will serve as a teaching assistant for the class, which could be offered as soon as next year.

Many students also take advantage of the Study Abroad options at Brandeis to engage in experiential learning. Senior Kendra Harrison '07 had never traveled outside the United States before coming to Brandeis, but spent part of her junior year in the Dominican Republic. The Spanish, Latin American/Latino studies, and international and global studies major took classes at a local university and worked at an orphanage.

Like Bachman, Harrison wanted to connect her experience to the Brandeis community, so she decided to write her senior thesis on transnational identity in Dominican-American literature. With the help of a research grant, Harrison returned to the Dominican Republic to work with people to see how they relate to text. "Study abroad was a time to understand my place in the world in a way I hadn't been able to," she said. "When you're in the classroom studying immigration, you forget it actually has a personal level."

For more information on the Experiential Learning Program at Brandeis, visit <http://www.brandeis.edu/experientiallearning/>, or e-mail Thara Fuller at tfuller@brandeis.edu, or Jessica Paquin at paquin@brandeis.edu. For more information on Study Abroad, visit <http://www.brandeis.edu/abroad/>, or e-mail J. Scott Van Der Meid at svanderm@brandeis.edu.

Art exhibition begins U.S. tour at Brandeis

Reconciliation
Continued from Page 1

mon denominator for artistic depiction of the pain-filled, yet hopeful stories of the conflict. The fragility of the large bowl symbolizes the fragility of the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians.

The artists represented include Israeli sculptor Menashe Kadishman, Israeli abstract sculptor and environmental artist Dani Karavan, Israeli-born photographer/videographer Michal Rovner, Palestinian artist Jalal Kamel and Aliza Olmert, wife of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Palestinian artist Osama Zatar sculpted a barbed wire olive tree that grows out of a painted rural landscape. The legs of his bowl are adorned with symbols of Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Zatar told the Jerusalem Post that he chose an olive tree "because it is something shared by us all, something that represents life whose

roots are deeper than human roots, and which lives peacefully with the earth and gives its fruit to all."

"If we continue to water our trees with blood, what legacy will our children inherit?" he asked.

Former President Bill Clinton has lauded the Parents Circle: "The Parents Circle's work is praiseworthy. They unite hundreds of Israeli and Palestinian families who have lost loved ones as a result of the Arab Israeli conflict." [July 22, 2005]

The artists' bowls will eventually be auctioned to benefit the ongoing educational activities of the Parents Circle-Families Forum, which has an Israeli office in Ramat Ef'al and a Palestinian office in A-Ram. In 2006 alone, the group organized more than 1,000 dialogue meetings with Israeli and Palestinian high school children and youth movement members, as well as students and groups from abroad. The Forum also hosts reconciliation meetings for Israeli and Palestinian adults and study days with people who shape public opinion, including high-ranking army officers and influential people in the financial world.

The exhibit will be on display for the Brandeis community and the general public in the Rapaport Treasure Hall of Goldfarb Library from March 22 through April 1. Hundreds of children from area schools are scheduled to view the exhibit. The Parents Circle is also coordinating talks with

Parents Circle members Ali Abu Awwad, whose brother was shot and killed by an Israeli soldier at a checkpoint at the entrance to their village, and Robi Damelin, whose son David was killed by a Palestinian sniper while he was guarding a checkpoint near a settlement during his army reserve service. Both will speak at Brandeis about their experiences with loss and reconciliation and facilitate discussion groups.

Awwad and Damelin are featured prominently in "Encounter Point," a feature-length documentary by a Palestinian, Israeli, and North and South American team from Just Visions. The film will be shown on Monday, March 21 and Tuesday, March 22 at the Arlington Regent Theatre at 7 Medford St. in Arlington (781-646-4849). Damelin and Awwad will attend the March 21 screening and offer a question and answer session at the conclusion of the film.

On March 29, the award-winning documentary will be shown at Brandeis in the Wasserman Cinematheque (Sachar International Center). This screening is open to members of the Brandeis community only.

"Instead of looking for revenge, we choose to use our mutual loss to empathize with each other, and that's the message we spread," Damelin said after a screening of the film in Jerusalem last year. "We believe it's necessary for both sides to see each other as human to stop the cycle of violence."

"Offering Reconciliation" was first exhibited at the Museum of Israeli Art in Ramat Gan in May 2006 and drew an unprecedented 2,500 guests including ambassadors from around the world, politicians, prominent members of the international and Middle East community and media representatives.

From Brandeis, the exhibition will travel to the World Bank in Washington, D.C.; the Bellevue Art Museum near Seattle; the Pomegranate Gallery and the United Nations in New York City; and SOFA-Chicago. A full-color, trilingual catalogue with an introduction by curators Orna Tamir-Schestowitz and Daphna Zmora accompanies the exhibit.

A faculty committee, an interfaith chaplaincy and student groups at Brandeis are coordinating and hosting programs around the exhibition. For more information, visit the Web site for the Brandeis exhibition or contact the Office of the Provost at 781-736-2101.



For art's sake, 'engaged in survival'

Women talk of confronting major challenges in creative process

By Carrie Simmons

Brandeis faculty, scholars and distinguished guest artists gathered in Rapaport Treasure Hall on March 1 for "Women Making Arts," the 12th annual Tillie K. Lubin Symposium sponsored by the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Spanning visual and verbal art, theater, music, film and dance, the artists' conversation about their creative processes and the challenges they face was both timely and necessary, according to James Mandrell, an associate professor of women's and gender studies and chair of the event.

"There's every reason to look carefully at the role and status of women in the world not just of the visual arts, but the many art forms being practiced today," he said.

"There's a reason that the Guerrilla Girls are still active, still out there, as their Web site points out, 'fighting discrimination with facts, humor and fake fur' as well as 're-inventing the f word: feminism.' There is quite simply a lot left to talk about."

The symposium opened with a powerful music and dance performance by Amazonas: The Women Master Drummers of Guinea, the first women's drum ensemble to emerge from West Africa. The group visited Brandeis as part of MusicUnitesUS.

Mamoudou Conde founded the Amazonas in 2000 to break cultural taboos in Guinea, where women were

historically forbidden to even touch the head of the djembe drum. He recruited brave women – Amazonas was the name given to the warrior-women of the ancient kingdom of Dahomey – since their communities, including their own families, would almost certainly shun them for playing the instrument.

When they began their training, the mother of drummer Mariama Bailo Diallo burned her costumes and disowned her. Fatoumata Kouyate's family told her that she would never marry because a man's family wouldn't want her if she played the balafone, another sacred instrument forbidden to women.

"They want to empower African women," Conde said of the women. "They want to be a role model, to teach other African women that they can do the same thing"

Several of the artists also discussed enduring gender and ethnic stereotypes in the United States, along with the frustrations of being placed in a particular genre or niche market.

Yu-Hui Chang, an assistant professor of composition at Brandeis, said the lack of female composition students in the United States was surprising. But what she found even more challenging was finding her own identity as a composer. Many people have preconceived ideas about what music by Asian composers should sound like, she said.

Most of the artists participating in the symposium said they spend at least half of their time on the business of their art.



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Participants in the symposium focused on verbal art, theater, music, film and dance.

María Agui Carter, an independent filmmaker and Women's Studies Research Center scholar, had to raise \$500,000 just to begin her upcoming documentary "Rebel" about a woman soldier of the American Civil War.

"We're engaged in survival, almost at the expense of the art," said Susan Davenny Wyner, music director and conductor of the Warren Philharmonic Orchestra and the Opera Western Reserve.

Anne Gottlieb, artistic director of an upcoming theatrical work based on the life and writings of a young Dutch woman during the Nazi occupation of Holland, spoke of the mentoring between women on collaborative projects like hers, but also the challenges of balancing multiple viewpoints on a creative project.

"Part of the process of collaboration is learning how to listen to

people without going into a place of constriction and without backing down from my own strong ideas," said Gottlieb, a Women's Studies Research Center scholar.

Other artists participating in the symposium included Diane Arvanites-Noya, dancer, choreographer and dance educator; Lynn Marshall-Linnemeier, visual artist and scholar; and author Barbara Neely. Assistant Professor of Theater Arts Adrienne Krstansky and Associate Professor of Fine Arts Susan Lichtman moderated the panel discussions.

The "Women Making Arts" symposium was co-sponsored by the Cultural Production Program, the Department of Romance and Comparative Literature, MusicUnitesUS, the Office of the Arts, the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, the Rose Art Museum, the WSRC Feminist Art Project and the WSRC

Aharon Barak to speak on human rights, terrorism

By Marsha MacEachern

The man some published reports have referred to as the "John Marshall" of Israel is coming to Brandeis University on March 25. During "Human Rights and the Battle Against Terror: The Israeli Case," Aharon Barak, past president of the Supreme Court of Israel, will discuss human rights and the fight against terror.

"Justice Barak has been on the forefront of dealing with the often conflicting pressures of maintaining human rights and confronting terror," said S. Ilan Troen, Stoll Family Professor in Israel Studies at Brandeis. "Few societies have had to cope with such a difficult and complex dilemma for such a long period of time." Troen adds that Barak led the Israeli Supreme Court in difficult times with wisdom, compassion and sensitivity, earning "widespread appreciation and distinction."

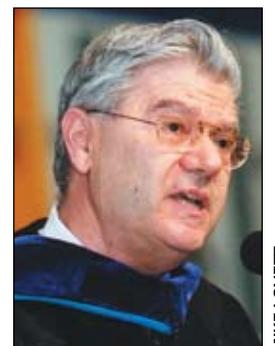
Barak, the eighth president of the court, is recognized for his protection of civil liberties. He previously served as Israel's attorney general for three years before his appointment to the Supreme Court in 1978. In 1975, he was awarded the Israel Prize in legal sciences. He was appointed deputy president of the Supreme Court in 1993, and from 1995 until the middle of 2006 he served as the court's president. He retired from the court last year.

Barak currently teaches law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and at Yale University. He is the author of several books in English and Hebrew, including "The Judge in a Democracy," "Purposeful Interpretation in Law" and "Judicial Discretion." Brandeis University awarded Justice Barak an honorary degree in 2003.

The Brandeis University Summer Institute for Israel Studies is sponsoring the event. Now in its fourth year, the institute is designed to assist

faculty in colleges and universities with the development of Israel studies courses they plan to introduce into the curriculum of their campuses. Barak's address is free and open to the public and has been organized as part of a workshop for alumni of the Summer Institute for Israel Studies, which includes faculty from across the country who trained in the summer program at Brandeis.

The event will be held at 4 p.m. in Sherman Hall, Hassenfeld Conference Center. For additional information contact 781-736-2125 or visit www.brandeis.edu/institutes/tauber.



Aharon Barak

MIKE LOVETT

Student activism alive and well on campus

By Daniel Kahn '07 and Fernanda Tapia '08

Since its earliest days, Brandeis has been a place where political and social activism has run deep within the student body. The same is true today, despite some outward appearances that social justice activism on campus has been waning.

In recent years, students have taken a subtler approach; they may not be as loud as their 60s and 70s counterparts, but their intentions and motivation are strong nonetheless.

"As volunteerism has grown, it has become fundamentally more thoughtful. People are less likely to show up for one day and then forget about it. They are more committed to long-term issues, and sustain these relationships even after graduation," said Alwina Bennett, assistant dean of Student Life.

Bennett said that Brandeis students' commitment to activism goes beyond the classroom. Students volunteer for numerous clubs and organizations, and the scope of involvement ranges from local to international. For instance, equal emphasis is given to ending genocide in Darfur as much as it is to helping the poor and hungry of Waltham.

Brandeis students, in keeping with the history and founding of the university, have a strong sense of social justice, which is exhibited through their involvement in a wide range of clubs and organizations promoting social and political causes. What follows is a brief snapshot of some of the students' involvement in activism. A complete list of groups and their contact information is available at my.brandeis.edu/clubs.

Campaigns

The Brandeis Labor Coalition continuously holds campaigns to promote fair working conditions both on and off campus.

Recently, the coalition successfully achieved an agreement that ensures that all products sold at the university's bookstore will be "sweat-free." By doing so, the coalition guarantees that the workers behind the products are earning a decent living wage.

The group has also partnered with the university to achieve its goals. This past summer, 22 custodians who had been working at Brandeis

through a subcontractor were all hired by the university. The move improved their wages. The successful campaign "got those custodians parity," said Rachel Kleinbaum, a member of the Brandeis Labor Coalition.

Awareness through experience

While Brandeis students seek to bring awareness of international and domestic problems to campus, they also strive to understand the people they help. BUCO, the Brandeis University Conservative Organization, in conjunction with Family Table, the Boston Jewish community's food pantry, held a program called Face Hunger during Hillel's Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. In that educational program, students engaged in role-playing and discussions where they assumed the identity of a someone suffering from hunger.

"The goal of the program is to put a face on hunger and to motivate participants to take an active role in helping to alleviate hunger," said Leora Perkins, social justice coordinator for BUCO.

FIRMC (Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children) also emphasizes the importance of personal experience in activism. The hands-on work performed by FIRMC members volunteering at health clinics in Central America, Africa and India is invaluable to the impoverished locals. The clinic in Costa Rica, where students volunteered this past February, is the only source of health care for the poor communities in the country's capital.

"What gives us our sense of purpose, driving our efforts throughout the year, is the importance of bringing the lessons we learn back to the Brandeis community," said Hana Akselrod '07, president of FIRMC's Brandeis chapter.

Religion in activism

Brandeis has long been a university with a strong, disparate religious presence, and social activism in connection with religion and spirituality is a natural extension of that. One example is The Brandeis Baha'i Association, which strives to promote social justice by offering the community a forum for spiritual reflection and revitalization.

Baha'i, in conjunction with the chaplains on campus, has been heavily involved in promoting



understanding between religions by participating in interfaith activities. "Religious intolerance and misunderstanding has long been a source of social injustice and [Baha'i] continually works toward promoting harmony and cooperation between the different religious groups on campus," according to Farbod Hagigi and Remz Pokorny, club administrators of Baha'i.

Beyond the main gate

Whether the focus is on international crises or domestic problems, Brandeis students invest their time in promoting awareness and affecting change. STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur) has a strong presence throughout campuses across the country. At Brandeis, STAND works to change people's often apathetic attitudes toward genocide.

Other groups, such as Positive Foundations (PF), aim to eliminate extreme poverty throughout the world. PF's Brandeis chapter was founded in 2005 and has already created an empowered presence, raising money for those plagued by extreme poverty around the world.

While the goals of the numerous groups on campus are varied, they share a common dedication to social justice that continues to make Brandeis a strong activist community.

As Wien Scholars discover, Katrina lingers still

Katrina

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nancial assistance to help 790 students from 105 countries attend Brandeis.

In late February, the Brandeis group traveled by bus to the tiny Gulf Coast fishing community of Buras, a town that was nearly wiped away when Hurricane Katrina came ashore in late summer 2005.

"I was shocked to see the kind of devastation that still exists 1 ½ years after Hurricane Katrina," said student trip coordinator Nikhil Agarwal '08, who hails from India. "Buras is two hours south of New Orleans, so it has not received much attention."

Agarwal painted a grim picture of a community struggling to rebuild. Nearly all of the residents live in trailers erected after Katrina leveled their homes. The sewage system is inadequate. The closest grocery store is 90 minutes away. The trees that were stripped of their leaves in the hurricane are still bare.

The Brandeis students worked with Emergency Communities, an organization rebuilding areas shattered by Hurricane Katrina. The Wien Scholars served meals, stocked a food and clothing distribution center, gutted homes to make way for new ones, worked with kids in a local trailer park, and restored a horse center for physically challenged children.

"It was very gratifying to know that the work

we were doing was helping these people, who have suffered so much for such a long time," Agarwal said. "It was definitely a worthwhile experience."

The trip also provided the Wien Scholars an opportunity to deepen their relationships with each other, whether on the 33-hour bus ride to Buras, around the fire outside the community tent they shared, working side by side, or during an impromptu soccer game.

"It was a tremendous bonding experience for the Wien Scholars, and I know that all of the students gained so much from this life-changing experience – learning from the residents as well as from each other," said David Elwell, director of the International Students and Scholars Office at Brandeis, who accompanied the group to Buras.