

Biotech giant gets drug company

Syntonix Pharmaceuticals, a spin-out company formed by Brandeis University, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Children's Hospital Boston, has been acquired by biotech giant Biogen Idec. Syntonix, a privately held biopharmaceutical company, was founded in 1997 based on breakthrough discoveries from the laboratories of Neil Simister (Brandeis), Wayne Lencer (Children's) and Richard S. Blumberg (Brigham). Their research harnesses the human body's natural immunological pathways for novel methods of drug delivery.

Alum captures top Sundance award

A Brandeis graduate's film captured the top documentary award Jan. 27 at this year's Sundance Film Festival



— the nation's top showcase for independent movies. Jason Kohn's "Manda Bala" ("Send a Bullet")

illuminates government corruption and kidnapping in Brazil. The film also won the documentary cinematography prize for Heloisa Passos. Kohn, who graduated in 2001 with a double major in history and European cultural studies and a minor in film studies, was the recipient in 2003-04 of a Mortimer Hays-Brandeis Traveling Fellowship.

Chaplains begin weekly peace vigil

Brandeis' Jewish, Catholic, Muslim and Protestant chaplains began a weekly vigil for peace Jan. 30 to express hope for a just and speedy resolution to the war in Iraq. The chaplains are inviting all members of the Brandeis community to join them at the Peace Memorial near Usdan every Tuesday from 12:10 to 12:30 p.m. until the war ends to stand in solidarity with those who have been impacted by the war.

Brandeis Reporter

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February 2007

Carter addresses his critics



In packed Gosman, defends new book

By Marjorie Lyon

Greeted by a standing ovation at Brandeis Jan. 23, and speaking to a polite audience, former President Jimmy Carter apologized for a language mistake in his new book on the Middle East but stood by its widely controversial treatment of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Carter spoke for 15 minutes and answered questions for about 45 minutes in Shapiro Gymnasium, which was packed with more than 1,700 Brandeis students, faculty and staff members. Introduced by David Hackett Fischer, University Professor and Earl Warren Professor of History,

Former president Jimmy Carter speaks before a packed audience of faculty, staff and students last month in Shapiro Gymnasium.

MIKE LOVETT

Carter, continued on Page 4

Schusters endow journalism institute

Philanthropists Elaine and Gerald Schuster have made a gift of \$5 million to Brandeis' newly named Elaine and Gerald Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism, a first-of-its-kind center committed to in-depth, nonpartisan reporting on issues with broad public interest.

Since its founding in 2004, the Schuster Institute has raised campus con-

sciousness about journalism's pivotal role in the pursuit of truth and justice, helped train the next generation of investigative journalists and established a reputation for producing high-quality public interest and investigative journalism.

"Our namesake, Justice Louis D. Brandeis, once said, 'Sunlight is [said to be] the best of disinfectants.' That phrase is

at the heart of the work being done at the institute," Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz said. "We thank the Schusters for their support of this groundbreaking institute, whose mission is consistent with the university's foundational ideal of pursuing 'truth, even unto its innermost parts.'"

Institute, continued on Page 6

Scheider, Neal to take center stage at SunDeis festival

By Marsha MacEachern

Classic Hollywood will be well represented during the student-organized 2007 SunDeis Film Festival at Brandeis March 3 and 4.

Academy Award nominee Roy Scheider, perhaps best known as police chief Martin Brody of "Jaws," and Academy Award winner Patricia Neal, one of the last leading ladies of the silver screen's golden age, will

walk the red carpet and receive SunDeis Lifetime Achievement Awards. They will also interact with the Brandeis community following screenings of Scheider's "All That Jazz" (1979) and Neal's "A Face in the Crowd" (1957).

Scott Feinberg '08, the festival's director of special events/guests, has previously inter-



SunDeis, continued on Page 8

Roy Scheider

Patricia Neal

WhoWhatWhere

Eric Chasalow, professor of composition, won the 2006 Sylvia Goldstein Award for his work "Flute Concerto." The award, administered by the Copland House, helps support the recording, performance or publication of one outstanding work each year written at least in part at Copland House by an Aaron Copland Award resident composer. "Flute Concerto" was commissioned by the Koussevitzky Foundation and premiered in fall 2005 at Brandeis.

Loretta Devine, MFA'76, who currently stars in television's "Grey's Anatomy," was one of the three original "Dreamgirls" on Broadway. She was also in last year's Academy Award-winning Best Picture "Crash."

Chuck Dunham, design director in the Office of Communications, won a CASE District 1 bronze award for his work on a poster for a Marcus Roberts Trio concert at Brandeis. The awards recognize outstanding achievement in higher education, independent schools and nonprofit organization communications.

Sharon Feiman-Nemser, director of the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education and Mandel Professor of Jewish Education, and **Dirck Roosevelt**, director of the Brandeis Master of Arts in Teaching program and associate professor of education, are co-editors (with three non-Brandeis colleagues) of "Transforming Teacher Education: Reflections From the Field" (January, Harvard Education Press). The book is based on work the professors did when they were on the faculty at Michigan State University.

Margaret Post, a student at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, is one of eight recipients of a K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award for 2007. The awards, from the Association of American Colleges and Universities, recognize graduate students who are committed to developing academic and civic responsibility in themselves and others, and who show exemplary promise as future leaders of higher education.

Dagmar Ringe, the Harold and Bernice Davis Chair in Aging and Neurodegenerative Disease, and **Greg Petsko**, the Gyula and Katica Tauber Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacodynamics, were featured in the PBS "Nova" documentary about Percy Julian, one of the great African-American scientists of the 20th century. "Forgotten Genius" premiered on Feb. 6 and can be viewed at www.pbs.org/nova/julian.

The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute's new Project on Gender, Culture, Religion and the Law on Feb. 6 sponsored its inaugural program, the "Day of Learning on Women, Gender Equality and Jewish Law in Israel." The mission of the project, directed by Dr. Lisa Fishbayn, is to foster creative approaches to negotiating the tension between women's equality and practices justified in terms of cultural and religious traditions.

New CIO to direct university's investments

Deborah F. Kuenstner, an investment professional with more than two decades' experience in financial management, has been named chief investment officer at Brandeis.

"We were impressed with Deborah and her background," said Peter French, executive vice president and chief operating officer. "She is the right person at the right time for Brandeis and has the skill and expertise to protect and build the university's assets."

Kuenstner began working at the university last month.

"It's an exciting challenge," she said, adding that she was attracted to the university by the social justice foundation of its mission.

Since 2005, Kuenstner has been managing director of research for the Boston-based financial services firm FMR Co. From 1993 to 2005, she worked for Putnam Investment Management Inc. as senior portfolio manager and as a chief investment officer. She has been a senior portfolio manager for international equities and a senior international equity analyst for DuPont Pension Fund Investment (1989-97).

During the 1980s she worked as an economist, statistician and research assistant for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and as vice president and international investment strategist, manager of research communications and senior economist for Merrill Lynch Securities Research and Economics.

At Brandeis, Kuenstner will direct the university's asset allocation and investment policy and supervise investment advisers,



among other responsibilities. She said her main goal is to build a small but world-class investment office while constantly monitoring marketplace risk factors.

The Wellesley College alumna said she looks forward to working with Brandeis' "sophisticated" Board of Trustees Investment Committee and maintaining and growing an already healthy portfolio.

"There's plenty of work to do, but overall the portfolio is in good shape," she said.

David Rakowsky, the Walter W. Naumburg Professor of Composition, had his musical works featured on two newly released CDs: "So Long, Thanks," featuring percussionist Michael Lipsey, and "Songs & Encores" featuring soprano Judith Bettina and pianist James Goldsworthy.

Thomas Shapiro, director of the Institute on Assets and Social Policy and the Pokross Professor of Law and Social Policy at the Heller School, is a featured author in the forthcoming book "Ending Poverty in America: How to Restore the American Dream" (April, The New Press). The book is a collection of 19 original essays by academics and public intellectuals.

Stephen Whitfield, the Max Richter Professor of American Civilization, delivered a keynote address, "Religion and Politics in the Anglophone World," at a conference in Caen, France. In addition, a book he edited, "A Companion to 20th-Century America" (Blackwell), was recently published in paperback.

Several Brandeis faculty and alumni was singled out in The Boston Globe's picks for best theatre productions of 2006. Among the works cited by theatre critic Louise Kennedy were "Amadeus" (Berkshire Theater Festival), directed by **Eric Hill**, the Malcolm and Barbara Sherman '54 Chairman, Department of Theatre Arts at Brandeis; "Five by Tenn" (SpeakEasy Stage Company) and "Happy Days" (Gloucester Stage Company) directed by **Scott Edmiston**, director of the Office of the Arts; "Martha Mitchell Calling" (Shakespeare & Company), starring **Annette Miller '58, MFA'76**; "Thomas Pain" (New Repertory Theatre), directed by **Adrienne Krstansky**, assistant professor of theatre arts; and "Mauritius" (Huntington Theater Company), written by **Theresa Rebeck, MA'83, MFA'86, PhD'89**. The Globe's arts editor Scott Heller named Edmiston's stage productions of "Five by Tenn" and "The Women" as among the 10 highlights of the Greater Boston year in the arts.

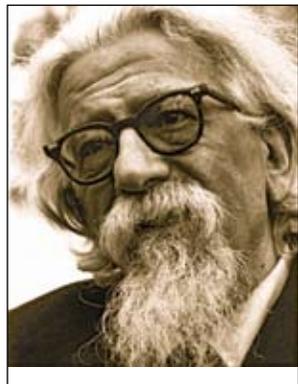
Recalling a 'spiritual radical'

Conference honoring Abraham Joshua Heschel

By Marsha MacEachern

Abraham Joshua Heschel is well known for his assertion that "no religion is an island." More than 30 years after his death those of both Jewish and Christian faith still recognize the famous rabbi as a voice for religious pluralism and the authority on prophetic Judaism in the United States.

Heschel (1907-1972), a radical religious thinker, masterful literary stylist and bold activist, will be recognized for his contributions during a centenary conference in honor of the 100th anniversary of his birth at Brandeis on March 11-12. Scholars from Brandeis and from around the world will gather to discuss the significance of his work and how his messages can be applied today.



Abraham Heschel

To Edward Kaplan, Heschel was not only a leader and scholar, but also a friend. Kaplan, a Heschel interpreter and biographer and the Kevy and Hortense Kaiserman Pro-

fessor in the Humanities at Brandeis, met Heschel in 1966 through a common commitment to civil rights.

"We made a deep connection and I used to go for walks with Heschel on Shabbat afternoons," Kaplan said. "I participated with Heschel in the religious movement against the Vietnam war. That's how I started to know him on a personal level."

Kaplan is spearheading the upcoming conference, during which the publication of the first intellectual and cultural biography on Heschel will be recognized. Yale University Press will soon release Kaplan's biography, "Spiritual Radical: Abraham Joshua Heschel in America, 1940-1972." Volume one of the biography, "Abraham Joshua Heschel: Prophetic Witness," has been reissued in paperback. Kaplan co-authored the book, a finalist in the National Jewish Book Awards,

with the late Samuel Dresner,

Heschel was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1907. He was able to leave Europe in 1940 and began teaching philosophy and rabbinics at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. In 1945 he became a professor of Jewish ethics and mysticism at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

Faithful to Jewish tradition, Heschel pushed the boundaries of conventional approaches to scholarship and public life. Hasidism and the Hebrew prophets inspired his religious philosophy and social activism. A charismatic and controversial public figure, he was an ally of Martin Luther King Jr. in the civil rights movement. He was both criticized and respected for his action for Soviet Jewry, his influence as theological consultant at the Second Vatican Council and his leadership in the religious opposition to the Vietnam War.

During the conference, about 30 leading scholars and activists will explore Heschel's original contributions to the fields of Bible, Talmud, Hasidism and religious education. Susannah Heschel, Heschel's daughter and professor of Judaic studies at Dartmouth College, will deliver the opening address at the conference. Arnold Eisen, Stanford University professor and chancellor-elect of the Jewish Theological Seminary, will give the keynote address. Also during the event, Steve Brand will show portions of a video documentary on Heschel's life.

Other highlights include discussions on religious pluralism and interfaith dialogue, Heschel as model for progressive movements, as well as Heschel's Hasidism, mysticism, holiness and moral integrity. Guest speakers include Michael Lerner, editor of Tikkun Magazine; Peter Geffen, founder of the Heschel School in New York; Moshe Idel of Hebrew University in Jerusalem; Arthur Green of Hebrew College; Mary Boys of Union Theological Seminary; Philip Cunningham of Boston College; and Barry Shrage, president of the CJP of Greater Boston, among others.

The conference will be held in the Hassenfeld Conference Center at Brandeis. For more information, visit www.brandeis.edu/events/heschel/ or call 781-736-2314.

WSRC exhibit first in U.S. for Frank

The drawings and sculptures of 98-year-old Hannah Frank, a Jewish artist of Glasgow, Scotland, are on exhibit through April 6 at the Women's Studies Research Center. Sponsored by the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, "Hannah Frank: A Jewish Artist of Glasgow" marks the first U.S. showing of Frank's work.

A slice of Scottish art nouveau, the drawings, sculptures and writings of Hannah Frank (1908-) reveal her remarkable inner spirit. Undeterred by the challenges faced by women and Jews in the 1920s, Frank pursued her passion for creating art and ultimately became one of Glasgow's most recognized artists.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s Frank focused her energy on her trademark black and white drawings. In the 1950s, under the tutelage of Benno Schotz, Frank also began sculpting the human form.

Frank and her husband Lionel Levy were active members of the Glasgow Friends of the Hebrew University, and she contributed sculptures and drawings to their fundraising appeals. In the 1940s, she provided illustrations for various Jewish organizations, and

throughout the 1980s and 1990s her drawings were used to illustrate the Scottish Jewish Archives Newsletter.

Frank's artwork has been widely exhibited at prominent institutions including the Royal Glasgow Institute, and most recently at the London Jewish Cultural Centre. Over the last three years, there has been a dramatic resurgence of interest in Frank's distinctive drawings and sensuous sculptures, particularly in her 'native heath,' Glasgow. As part of a five-year world tour, Frank's solo exhibition will travel from Brandeis to Doncaster, England, and finally, on Aug. 23, Frank's 100th birthday, the exhibition will open at Glasgow University.

"Hannah Frank: A Jewish Artist of Glasgow" is one of 10 events in 2007 celebrating HBI's 10th anniversary. The exhibition will be on display in the Kniznick Gallery at the Women's Studies Research Center through April 6.

The opening reception will be held on Thursday, Feb. 8, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Grants awarded for arts festival

40 projects get funding from Office of the Arts

Through funding from the Brandeis Office of the Arts, more than 100 students will participate in 40 dance, music, theater and multidisciplinary projects at Brandeis during the 2007 Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts.

The festival will take place at Brandeis from April 25 to 29.

The Office of the Arts received 50 grant applications for the festival, an increase from 17 in 2005. Grants are awarded to Brandeis undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff to produce innovative and artistic works that offer the community opportunities to create, participate in and learn about the arts.

The jury evaluates applications on the quality and innovation of the project, and the potential for broad involvement of the Brandeis community during the festival. April marks the 55th festival of the arts, which was renamed in 2005 for its founder, legendary composer and Brandeis faculty member Leonard Bernstein.

"These innovative, optimistic artists, with their connection to social justice and a broader understanding of the arts in society, speak to the university's culture and values," said Scott Edmiston, director of the Office of the Arts.

Members of the grant jury for the 2007 festival included Ingrid Schorr and Edmiston (Office of the Arts), Jennie El-Far (student, theater arts), Tory Fair (faculty, fine arts), Stephanie Grimes (staff, student activities), Kate Housman (student, music), Adrienne Krstansky (faculty, theater arts), Moira Louca (staff, Rose Art Museum), Scott Moerdler (student, fine arts), Andrea Nix (staff, arts and sciences), David Rakowski (faculty, music), Barbara Sherman '54 and Ellen Smith (faculty, Near Eastern and Judaic studies).

Funding from the Office of the Arts is not necessary to participate in the festival. A complete schedule of events will be available in March at www.brandeis.edu/arts.

Backward Glance

10 Years Ago: A national study puts Brandeis atop list of 'rising elite' universities.

5 Years Ago: A gift from the Mandel Supporting Foundations of Cleveland, Ohio, establishes the Center for Studies in Jewish Education at the university.

1 Year Ago: Brandeis launches a comprehensive energy-savings program on campus.



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Carter warmly received by crowd

Acknowledges 'great concern' over book on struggle in Israel

Carter
Continued from Page 1

Carter talked about his experiences in dealing with the Middle East conflict and the content of his book, "Palestine Peace Not Apartheid." Some have charged that Carter espouses an anti-Israel bias in the book, while others have criticized the work for being sloppy, for leaving out important information and for being off the mark factually in some instances. In many passages, the book is harshly critical of Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

Mari Fitzduff, professor of coexistence and director of the Master's Program in Intercommunal Coexistence, moderated the Carter program, which drew about 50 protesters, many of whom defended the 39th president. With signs and banners, they gathered outside in the crisp winter air, across the street from Gosman Sports and Convocation Center.

Long regarded as a statesman for world diplomacy that earned him a Nobel Peace Prize in 2002, Carter said he is concerned over personal attacks that have been made against him since the book's release. "This is the first time that I've ever been called a liar and a bigot and anti-Semite and coward and plagiarist," Carter said. "This has hurt me." Using the word "apartheid" in the title provoked controversy, but Carter defended that choice, saying he used it knowing that it would be provocative.

"In the long run, it has precipitated positive discussion and it has brought the issue of a lack of progress on peace for Israel, and a lack of progress on the end of the Palestinian suffering to the forefront," he said.

"I realize that this has caused great concern in the Jewish community. The title makes it clear that the book is about conditions and events in the Palestinian territory and not in Israel. And the text makes clear on numerous occasions that the forced separation and the domination of Arabs by Israelis is not based on race." Carter explained that he is not using the word to describe racism, but the desire to acquire, occupy, confiscate and then to colonize Palestinian land.

The Faculty and Student Committee to bring Jimmy Carter to Brandeis invited the former president to campus. It screened 178 questions and chose 15 for Carter to answer. The panel opted to solicit questions before the event to save time and create a smoother flowing format for the event. Carter did not know what he was going to be asked, and the committee said it put no preconditions on the questions' content.

Asked about a sentence in his book that seemed to justify terrorism by saying that suicide bombings should end when Israel accepts the goals of the "road map" to peace with Palestinians, Carter said, "That sentence was worded in a completely improper and stupid way. I've written my publishers to change that sentence immediately in future editions of the book. I apologize to you personally and to everyone here."

Carter described a dire situation for Palestinians in the West Bank, because of roads that Palestinians could not use, a huge dividing wall and more than 500 checkpoints. He suggested that a group of Brandeis students and professors visit the occupied territories for a few days and meet with leaders and citizens "to determine whether I have exaggerated or incorrectly described the plight of the Palestinians."

"While there," he added, "you could also assess a subject that I have not mentioned: whether treatment of Arabs inside Israel is fair and equitable."

Carter says in his book that Israel is responsible for making peace. He told the audience that "Israel will never find peace until it is willing to withdraw from its neighbors' land and to permit the Palestinians to exercise their basic human and political rights."

Criticism of his book focuses on Carter's suggestion that Israel has committed human-rights abuses against Palestinians, that the American Press is extremely pro-Israel, and that Israel



Minutes before his talk, former President Jimmy Carter, right, chats with University Professor David Hackett Fischer, left, as Mari Fitzduff, director of the master's program in coexistence, looks on.

lobbyists stifle debate. Carter said he never claimed nor believed that American Jews control the news media. He emphasized that he wants to rejuvenate the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians, which he argued has been completely dormant in the past six years. He said he would like to see negotiation orchestrated or promoted by the United States with participation by the "quartet" of the United States, Russia, the United Nations and the European Union. And he said he hopes his book will provide an avenue to "a secure Israel living in peace with its neighbors, while exemplifying the principles of ancient sacred texts and the philosophy of Justice Louis D. Brandeis: justice and righteousness."

One student, Gideon N. Katsh '09, asked about Carter's criticism of the security fence that Israel says has reduced by 95 percent the number of suicide bombings. Carter answered that he opposed the fence because "on occasion it penetrates deeply within the West Bank to encompass not only the existing Israeli settlements, but also to encompass beautiful land and hilltops for the construction of future settlements. So this is the difference. I would have no objection and neither would the international community if this barrier would be built along the border."

While some students were critical of Carter's views, others felt that the controversy he has sparked creates valuable debate that could fuel progress towards a solution.

President from 1977 to 1981, Carter brokered the 1978 Camp David Peace Accord between Israel and Egypt. He established the Carter Center to support humanitarian outreach, and has won respect for his efforts through Habitat for Humanity, which, among other initiatives, has constructed homes for people too poor to buy them.

After the completion of the Carter program at Brandeis, Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz spoke in the same venue to about 800 members of the university community. He, too, was invited by a group of students and faculty that said it wanted to hear alternative analyses about the situation in the Middle East. Dershowitz criticized Carter's book but said he had many views in common with what Carter imparted in his Brandeis address. "Had he written a book similar to what he said on stage, I don't believe there would have been much controversy," said Dershowitz, adding, "There are two different Jimmy Carters." He criticized Carter for being overly simplistic.

"President Carter suggests that everything rides on Israel's decision not to give back land. Somehow this is about land and the small percentage of Israelis who live in the occupied areas, that they are the only barriers to peace. That simply is not the reality."

Dershowitz said that he and Carter agree on one thing: they want "an unmilitarized Palestinian state living in peace side by side with Israel."

MIKE LOVETT

The skinny on fat

K.C. Hayes has been studying it for more than three decades

By Laura Gardner

KC. Hayes has been researching animal and human lipid metabolism — how the body utilizes fat — for more than three decades. Long before disease-promoting trans fats took center stage in the escalating food fight over fat and health, Hayes and his colleagues developed cholesterol-lowering tortilla chips and Smart Balance buttery spreads. So it's no surprise that a new study by Hayes published last month in *Nutrition and Metabolism* has already garnered global interest.

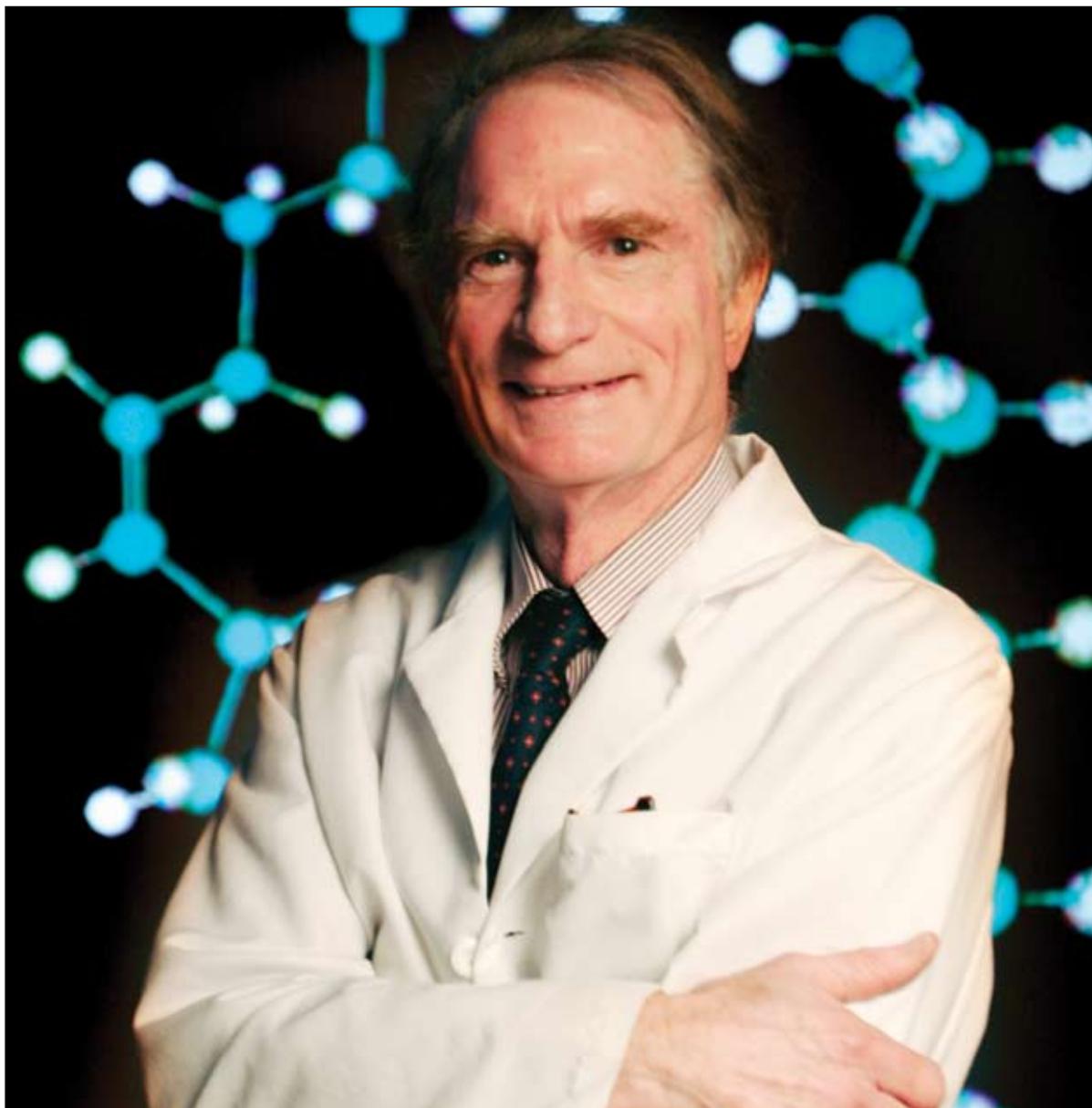
The research, conducted in Malaysia and at Brandeis, shows that a new method of modifying fat in commercial products to replace unhealthy trans fats raises blood glucose and depresses insulin in humans, common signs of impending diabetes. Furthermore, like trans fat, the newest fat on the block still adversely depressed the beneficial HDL-cholesterol.

Trans-fatty acids, which became ubiquitous in baked goods, processed foods and restaurant cooking decades ago because of their shelf life and other properties, are now being abandoned by many producers of commercial products such as cookies, crackers, pies, doughnuts, and French fries because they raise LDL ("bad") cholesterol, lower HDL ("good") cholesterol and contribute to heart disease, with a strong inference that they are involved in type 2 diabetes, as well.

The recent study demonstrates that an interesterified fat (a modified fat that includes hydrogenation followed by random rearrangement of fat molecules by the process called interesterification), enriched with saturated stearic acid, adversely affected human metabolism of lipoproteins and glucose, compared to an unmodified, natural saturated fat.

Meanwhile, in December, New York City outlawed trans fats in restaurants, a ban now under consideration in other cities, including Boston and Chicago. Interesterification to generate a stearic acid-rich fat is fast becoming the method of choice to modify fats in foods that require a longer shelf life because this process hardens fat similar to oils containing trans-fatty acids. The new study shows that interesterification, which unnaturally rearranges the position of individual fatty acids on the fat molecule, can alter metabolism of fat (including cholesterol) and glucose in humans.

"One of the most interesting aspects of these findings is the implication that our time-honored focus on fat saturation may tell only part of the story," says Hayes, a biologist and nutritionist who collaborated on the research with Dr. Kalyana Sundram, nutrition director for palm oil research at the Malaysian Palm Oil Board in Kuala Lumpur.



MIKE LOVETT

"Now it appears that the actual structure of the individual fat molecule is critical; that is, the specific location of individual fatty acids, particularly saturated fatty acids, on the glycerol molecule as consumed seems to make a difference on downstream metabolism of fat and glucose," said Hayes.

The Malaysian-Brandeis collaboration compared trans-rich and interesterified fats with an unmodified saturated fat, palm olein, for their relative impact on blood lipids and plasma glucose. Thirty human volunteers participated in the study, which strictly controlled total fat and fatty acid composition in the subjects' diet. Each subject consumed all three diets in random rotation during four-week diet periods. This study further confirmed previous studies in animals and humans, indicating once again that trans fats negatively affect LDL and HDL cholesterol. Surprisingly, the interesterified fat had a similar, though weaker impact on cholesterol.

"In this study we discovered that trans fat also

"Our time-honored focus on fat saturation may tell only part of the story."

has a weak negative influence on blood glucose. The newer replacement for trans, so-called interesterified fat, appears even worse in that regard, raising glucose and depressing insulin, each about 20 percent in a month," said Hayes.

This is the first human study to examine simultaneously the metabolic effects of the two most common replacement fats for a natural saturated fat, palm olein, widely incorporated in foods. With the skinny on fat far from being fully elucidated, Hayes and Sundram are planning more studies to consider the role of genetics, amount of total fat consumed, and other factors.

Relieve the stress from choosing rooms

Each year, the Department of Residence Life sponsors a room-selection process for all housing in the nine residence quads across campus. Much of the stress surrounding room selection that many students feel can be relieved by reading the room-selection guide and asking questions about the program. Here is what everyone needs to know:

The Basics

- Students will receive a randomly generated room selection number in their mailbox on Feb. 16. This number designates the order in which they choose housing as well as the day they participate in the process. First-year and sophomore students are guaranteed housing on campus; juniors and seniors select housing based on their lottery numbers. Students unable to select housing are placed on a waiting list.
- The nine residence quads are designated for particular class years with some available to more than one class. For example, the Mods are for seniors only, meaning that only members of the Class of 2008 may choose among those spaces for next year. Charles River, for instance, is open to rising sophomores, juniors and seniors. All housing designations are outlined in the room-selection guide.

What's New

At the conclusion of this academic year, Ridgewood Quad will be demolished to make room for a new residence quad set to open in spring 2009, causing a temporary loss of beds on campus. To offset this loss, a number of beds will be designated for undergraduates in Charles River that in the past were used by graduate students. Also, Scheffres, a hall that is part of North Quad, will be designated for sophomores; it is typically for first-year students only.

How to Help

- Don't let your student panic!
- Remind students who do not receive their first choice of housing that they may be placed on the waiting list.
- The Department of Residence Life distributes information to students and posts information at www.brandeis.edu/reslife. Ask your student to read all of these materials. Students who are successful during room selection are the ones who are the most prepared.
- Every student needs a backup plan in the event they do not receive their first choice of housing. They should have a second, third and even fourth choice for housing.
- Where your child lives is not as important as the people they live with. After room selection has concluded, the Department of Residence Life continues to work with students who did not receive housing through the summer.
- If you or your student have a question, call 781-736-5060, e-mail reslife@brandeis.edu or stop by our office in the Usdan Student Center.

614 launched by HBI

E-zine will confront controversial topics

The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute (HBI) in January launched 614: The HBI eZine, a bi-monthly online magazine that promises to spark conversation among Jewish women.

The e-zine will dive into heated and controversial topics, including the ethics of selling human eggs, why Jewish women are now notably in charge of religion for their families and the new books that are changing how Jewish women see themselves.

614 will present a variety of perspectives from artists and activists, observant and secular Jews and scholars and authors around the world who are analyzing cutting-edge topics.

The idea for 614 blossomed after an HBI board meeting; staff and the HBI board of directors concluded that the innovative work of the institute and other hot topics in the Jewish community were ripe for discussion among a new audience of often disillusioned Jewish women in their 20s, 30s and 40s. Providing a nonintimidating environment to learn, share and explore ideas, the concept of a Web magazine became the perfect venue for such discussion.

"I wanted to offer a space where Jewish women could learn about topics that affect their lives, without imposing a specific

agenda," said 614 editor Michelle Cove. "614 will offer multiple viewpoints and allow readers come to their own conclusions. Or, even better, readers will be left with questions and go digging for even more information."

The first issue of 614, "The Surprising Power of Jewish Names," takes on the question of whether birth

names influence the course of people's lives. According to an ancient Jewish tradition, the act of changing a name can change a person's very well-being. Contributing writer Rabbi Benjamin Blech explains how Abraham and Jacob ended up with new names in the Bible; author Elizabeth Mark tells her own story of choosing new names to influence the journey of her health; and Shulamit Reinharz describes the impact of growing up "Shula" in a New Jersey town without Jews.

For more on the e-zine, visit www.brandeis.edu/hbi/614/.



Schusters endow journalism center

Institute
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The Schuster Institute's impact has been felt both on and off the campus. The institute has hosted an array of speakers, including Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Thomas Friedman '75, former Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee and "Dead Man Walking" author Sister Helen Prejean, who have reinforced the vital role an aggressive, hard-hitting media plays in a democratic society.

The institute's major journalism projects have included a collaboration with The Washington Post on a story about the Federal Aviation Administration's failure to probe allegations that thousands of unapproved parts were installed on Boeing jets, and a story in The Boston Globe about whether lower courts will narrow a Supreme Court ruling that should make it easier for employees to sue for retaliation in federal court.

"We are happy to support the urgent work of the institute, especially in this era when fewer media outlets will dedicate the resources needed to dig deeply and expose wrongdoing," Elaine Schuster said. "The institute's efforts are much needed in bringing to light public policy, exposing problems in the criminal justice system and pursuing often-overlooked stories about injustices to



Elaine and Gerald Schuster

women, children and families. Brandeis is just the right place for this institute."

The Schuster Institute is headed by investigative reporter Florence Graves, its founding director. Her work has focused largely on investigating and exposing political, government and corporate abuses of power, particularly in Washington. She broke The Washington Post story exposing sexual misconduct allegations against U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood, which led to his resignation.

The Schuster Institute pursues stories for three major projects — the Political and Social Justice Project, the Gender and Justice Project and the Justice Brandeis Innocence Project. Students work closely with institute professionals, who are helping to train the next generation of investigative reporters.

What's Happening

Darkness amid an American nightmare

By Marsha MacEachern

This winter, the Brandeis Theater Company explores the dark side of the American dream in Lanford Wilson's groundbreaking play "Balm in Gilead."

Written in 1965, the drama depicts the pulsing underground of New York City's counterculture. Set in an all-night diner in midtown Manhattan, it depicts the everyday lives of junkies, bums, drifters, prostitutes and other outsiders living on the fringe of society. Into this hopeless environment stumble Joe and Darlene, two young lovers who believe they will be able to transcend the turmoil and ugliness of urban life. They are, in Wilson's words, "losers who refuse to lose."

"Balm in Gilead" was a revolutionary play in 20th century American theater," said Eric Hill, artistic director of the Brandeis Theater Company. "Wilson was dramatizing life in America from a point of view that was unique at the time. He

brought to the stage the cultural zeitgeist that can be found in Beat writers like Kerouac and Ginsberg or the rock music of Lou Reed and Patti Smith. His characters are dangerously dancing on the edge."

Wilson was inspired to write "Balm in Gilead" by conversations he overheard in New York City cafes, some of which he directly used in the dialogue. The play is also notable for its scope: it involves a large cast of 30 actors, making the sheer physical production a theatrical event.

During the past 40 years, Wilson's character-driven plays have achieved popularity and acclaim for their bittersweet portrayals of loneliness and social alienation. He is the author of more than 20 works, including "Fifth of July" and "Talley's Folly," which earned him a Pulitzer Prize for drama.

"In the wake of 9/11, American culture has moved dramatically to the right," said Hill. "New York City is now owned and operated by Disney. Some things have been



The Brandeis Theater Company will conjure the counterculture underground in groundbreaking play Feb. 8 to 18 in the Laurie.

gained, but some were lost. 'Balm of Gilead' views the old, gritty individualism of that city with an uncompromising but compassionate eye. It invites us to listen to the voices of the people who have run 'underground.'"

The BTC production is directed by

theater arts faculty member Elizabeth Terry. "It will run from Feb. 8-18 in the Laurie Theater at the Spingold Theater Center.

Tickets are available through Brandeis Tickets at 781-736-3400 (option 5). For more information visit www.brandeis.edu/btc.

Guinean drummers to offer 'heavenly outpouring'

By Marsha MacEachern

The insistent beats of the djembe drum immediately demand your attention. Then the dancers, flamboyant in African costumes and headdresses, draw you in further. The artists of "Amazones: The Women Master Drummers of Guinea" tell stories surrounding their lives, survival and culture through a thrilling performance.

An evening of dynamic African drumming, song and dance is expected when Amazones take the stage in the Spingold Theater Center March 3. This concert, the only Northeast stop on the group's 2007 USA tour, is part of Brandeis' MusicUnitesUS: World Music Concert Series. This popular series invites audiences from the Boston area and beyond to experience world cultures through music.

"Amazones will add yet another voice to the many musical narratives that have visited the campus," said Judith Eissenberg, MusicUnitesUS director. "The women of Amazones bring not only the 'talking drum' tradition of Africa, but also a story of courage and strength as they take their place on the international stage."

Created in 2000 by Mamoudou Conde, Amazones is the first women's drum ensemble to emerge from West Africa. According to Laura Rich, the group's administrator and music

educator, these artists are reclaiming their musical culture through playing the djembe - the traditional drum historically forbidden to women. Only within recent years have women been allowed to play the instrument. With the ability to make music, Rich says, the women are also achieving economic liberation.

"One of the missions of the company is to empower women in Africa to take charge of their lives and become self-supporting," Rich said. "Traditionally when money is in the hands of women, children eat, get medical treatment and are clothed and educated. All the Amazones women came from struggling situations, but now have the means to take care of themselves and their families."

Amazones will offer a performance that's been hailed "a heavenly outpouring of throbbing jubilation, forceful uplifting beats and pounding enthusiasm" by Maximum Ink Music Magazine. The concert will begin at 8:00 p.m. and will be preceded by a free 7:00 p.m. talk at The Rose Art Museum. Noted Africanist historian and political scientist Lansine Kaba will deliver the pre-concert talk (free with concert admission). Kaba is professor of history and African-American studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is visiting Brandeis as the Madeline Haas Russell distinguished professor of African Studies.



Amazones brings its art to Spingold March 3.

In association with the residency, Brandeis will sponsor films, open classes, and symposia on West African culture, literature and music. Discussions will surround the group's origins, the cultural rebuilding of Guinea, and the role of music in community and spiritual life. For a complete schedule: www.brandeis.edu/MusicUnitesUS/residency.

MusicUnitesUS is a three-tiered program of Brandeis that encompasses an Intercultural Residency Series, a Public School Education Program, and a World Music Series.



MIKE LOVETT

Back in the day

A visitor to the Rose Art Museum surveys Nam June Paik's "Charlotte Moorman II" (1995) from the Rose's permanent collection. The piece (92 x

68 x 24 inches) is a display of antique television cabinets, cellos, televisions and video. Courtesy Hayes Acquisition Fund.

SunDeis plans star-studded lineup at March festival

SunDeis
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viewed both stars and said he looks forward to honoring them at the festival.

"We're delighted that Roy Scheider and Patricia Neal, two of the greatest actors and finest people in the film industry, have accepted our invitation to receive the SunDeis Lifetime Achievement Award in person," Feinberg said. "They both have given some of the most acclaimed performances in some of the most memorable films of the last half-century, and this will be a remarkable opportunity to see and learn from them up close."

Scheider, a New Jersey native born in 1932, has appeared in dozens of films since the early 1960s. While he is most closely associated with Steven Spielberg's groundbreaking blockbuster "Jaws" (1975), he also starred in a number of other classic films, including "The French Connection" (1971), "Klute" (1971), "Marathon Man" (1976) and "All That Jazz" (1979), for which he received an Oscar nomination for best actor.

Neal, born in Kentucky in 1926, made her film debut in the late '40s opposite future president Ronald Reagan in "John Loves Mary" (1949). Among the dozens of films in which she has starred are such classics as "The Fountainhead" (1949), "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951), "A Face in the Crowd" (1957), "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (1961) and "The Subject Was Roses" (1968). She won an Oscar for best actress for her performance opposite Paul Newman in "Hud" (1963). Years earlier, she won a Tony Award for her stage performance in "Another Part of the Forest" (1947).

SunDeis plans to announce additional guests over the coming month, including the recipients of its "Entertainer of the Year Award" and first-ever "Alumni Achievement Award." The festival committee has, however, begun to unveil the names of Brandeis alumni now working in the entertainment industry who will speak on a special panel on the first day of the festival, including Ross Martin, a TV and film producer who is the head of programming for MTVu. Also, Erwin Stoff,

the personal manager for such A-list talent as Debra Messing, Keanu Reeves, Matthew Broderick and Ethan Hawke and the producer of films like "The Matrix" and "Austin Powers," will be one of several prominent speakers who will address students on the second day of the festival.

"These sessions offer students the chance to speak with experts in fields they may wish to enter, and it helps them to sort through possible career options and make contacts," Feinberg said. "At the end of the day, this festival is about the students — the students who submit their work, who want to learn about film or who are just looking for something interesting to do with their weekend."

Dozens of student filmmakers have submitted films from around the world and will get a chance to showcase their work during the SunDeis weekend. The best student films will be announced during the red carpet awards ceremony on Sunday, March 4.

Visit www.brandeis.edu/sundeis for the latest on the SunDeis schedule and guests.