May 2015

Dear Class of 2019,

I am delighted to be among the first to welcome you to Brown. Your next four years offer both a promise and a challenge: the promise of new structures of learning, and the challenge of building these structures yourselves. At Brown we sometimes say that you are “architects” of your education, and the metaphor implies at least two things. It suggests that what you make of your education here will be functional and enduring. It also suggests that the process itself will take time. The most successful buildings are always the result of long-range planning with many collaborators. In the next months you will begin your own planning, and we have prepared this packet to help you do it well. Inside you will find the following items:

Planning Your Liberal Education
The first is a booklet containing information and advice about your first year of study at Brown. Read it carefully, and pay close attention to the deadlines for key summer tasks, including activating your Brown email account by Friday, May 29. We will be sending you important information by email throughout the summer.

Academic and Student Conduct Codes
Brown University is governed by fundamental principles of conduct that all students must adopt when they become members of the community. The enclosed letter explains the Academic and Student Conduct Codes and provides the url for these documents. You will have to complete an online tutorial about the Codes before you arrive on campus.

Navigating Brown
Brown's required Orientation begins Saturday, September 5. (International students should plan to arrive on Wednesday, September 2, to attend International Orientation.) Navigating Brown provides critical information about moving in and getting settled. Another crucial resource is the Orientation website (brown.edu/orientation), which includes a full Orientation schedule. You will receive a printed version of the schedule when you arrive on campus.

Student Billing Guide
This document provides essential information about tuition and billing, and a flyer about the documents you’ll need to bring to campus if you intend to have a paying job at Brown.

Letter to your Advisor
We would like you to write a brief letter to your first-year advisor introducing yourself and saying a little bit about your hopes and plans for your first year at Brown. More details will be provided in future communications. Please submit your letter by August 15th via the “Orientation” tab at ask.brown.edu.

The New Jim Crow
This year’s First Readings selection is the book The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Era of Colorblindness. During Orientation you will have an opportunity to discuss the book with a faculty member, a peer facilitator, and other students. In preparation, we ask you to read the book and send a brief response to your discussion group leaders by August 15. You’ll find details about this assignment at library.brown.edu/firstreadings.

I personally look forward to seeing you when you arrive on campus in September. Until then, please accept my congratulations and my very best wishes for a restful and thoughtful summer.

Yours sincerely,

Maud S. Mandel
Dean of the College
Professor of History and Judaic Studies