

\$2.5 Million Gift Creates Maria Stata Professorship

Endowment focuses on classical Greek studies

taken up the cause, telling Nichols and his staff that they received an excellent education at BU and have used it to make an impact. They've said that they have faith in Brown and the trustees and that the campaign's message resonates.

He points out that the University has more than 300,000 alumni around the world, and that "it's impossible for us to go to any major city on the planet and not run into some important BU people who've never been asked to step up and support the place with some significant gifts. Some of them want to know where we've been for 20 or 30 years." BU has been blessed with an extraordinarily generous international community, Nichols says, one whose gifts account for 16 percent of contributions, compared with an average of around 2 percent for most universities.

The campaign is also distinguished by the number, rather than the size, of gifts. BU received 600 commitments of \$100,000 or more, 103 of which were for at least \$1 million.

The Century Challenge has raised \$14 million in support of undergraduate scholarships. Nichols says Brown came up with the program, which guarantees that if a donor contributes \$100,000 or more to establish an endowed undergraduate scholarship fund, the University will match the payout from that fund every year for 100 years (up to a maximum of \$100 million). "From the donor perspective," he says, "it doubles the impact of the gift."

In addition to funding scholarships, campaign funds will eventually be used to increase the number of endowed professorships (with 39 positions already created since the campaign began), support research, and boost special programs, such as career services, libraries, and athletics.

The campaign will also support the improvement of campus facilities, a key element in burnishing the University's status as a research institution. LF

THE CULTURE OF ancient Greece is alive and well and living conspicuously, for those who pay attention, in the sciences, arts, architecture, politics, and philosophy of our everyday world. Now, thanks to a gift from Maria Stata (CAS'62), that enduring influence will be even more greatly appreciated by students and scholars in the College of Arts & Sciences.

The \$2.5 million gift creates the Maria Stata Professorship in Classical Greek Studies, which will support a distinguished senior faculty member with scholarly and teaching expertise in the classical period of Greek history. And while the University has a sizable community of scholars who focus on ancient Greece from several perspectives, including classical studies, history, and political science, the inaugural Maria Stata Professor is David Roochnik, a CAS professor and chair of philosophy.

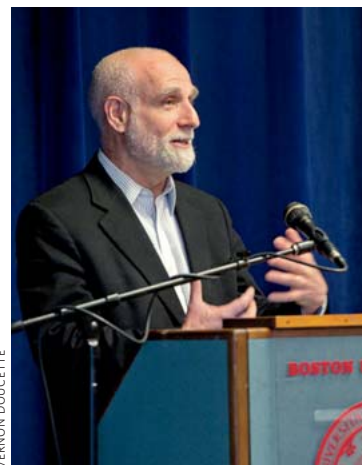
"Ancient Greece is a living world," says Roochnik. "It is filled with spectacular ideas that are as important and powerful today as

they were 2,500 years ago. No one should miss it."

"This wonderful gift from Maria Stata will make a significant and lasting difference to our classical studies program," says BU President Robert A. Brown. "It will ensure that students for generations to come will be able to study under accomplished scholars in this important interdisciplinary field, and I very much appreciate Maria's recognition of the value of classical studies and her dedication to her alma mater."

Stata, whose husband, Ray Stata, is co-founder and chairman of semiconductor and signal processing company Analog Devices, asked that her gift support a professor who would ensure that undergraduates who may not be majoring in classics have the chance to study the mark of ancient Greece on Western civilization, says Virginia Sapiro, dean of Arts & Sciences and a professor of political science.

"Mrs. Stata wanted to support Boston University's ability to educate students about that important society



VERNON DOUCETTE

David Roochnik has been named the inaugural Maria Stata Professor in Classical Greek Studies.

and its contributions to culture, art, architecture, philosophy, science, and literature," Sapiro says. "Indeed, these influences remain profound today, although most of our students may not know it if they don't study it."

Asked why he believes that students should study ancient Greece, Roochnik cites a scenario posed by Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Don DeLillo in his novel *White Noise*: What if you were hurled into a time warp and came face-to-face with an ancient Greek, whose people invented trigonometry and conducted autopsies and dissections? DeLillo writes, "What could you tell an ancient Greek that he couldn't say, 'Big deal'?" AL