

# Go Back to School — on Your iPod

iTunes U brings BU lectures, videos, and sports straight to your screen



**ITUNES SAMPLER: FIND THESE AND MORE ON BU ITUNES**

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ALUMS CAN SEE what goes on backstage at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre, learn the ergonomically correct way to wear a backpack, and watch BU professors debating the future of newspapers — all on their iPods or at their desktops.

In September, BU partnered with Apple's iTunes software to offer a free online collection of videos and slide shows from *BU Today*, the news and information Web site of Boston University, as well as taped lectures and symposiums, programming from WBUR radio, and sports highlights. The program, called iTunes U, is also available at more than 100 other colleges and universities across the country.

"This program is great because it's on demand — you can download it to your iPod and listen to it while driving or at the gym," says Swapna Kumar, a School of Education instructor in the department of curriculum and teaching. As a teaching tool, "it's very powerful because it reinforces what students are learning and discussing."

Other content available for download on iTunes U includes WBUR's *On Point* with Tom Ashbrook; a lecture by Andrew Bacevich, a College of Arts & Sciences professor of international relations, about

presidential campaigns during wartime; and the latest men's and women's ice hockey highlights. (Content from *BU Today*, WBUR, and BU Athletics can also be viewed — but not downloaded — on YouTube by searching under those names.)

And that's just the beginning. Soon, recorded lectures, lab demonstrations, and supplemental course content will all be available to download from iTunes U, adding a new dimension to the learning experience. Bringing iTunes U into the classroom is a project spearheaded by Kumar and Victor Coelho, BU's associate provost for undergraduate education.

Professors are excited, Coelho says, and the University plans to choose the courses that best engage students and alums. "There's so much that could be done with this program," he adds. "We want to show the world what takes place at BU."

AMY LASKOWSKI

To access iTunes U, download the free iTunes software from Apple, if you don't already have it. Then connect to BU's iTunes Web site at [www.bu.edu/iTunes](http://www.bu.edu/iTunes) and click "Launch iTunes" in the bottom left corner of the page to view and download the content.

## Master of Ceremonies

Filmmaker Zhang Yimou, director of Olympics spectacle, to receive honorary degree

Acclaimed Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou, who directed the opening and closing ceremonies at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at Boston University's 136th Commencement ceremony this May.

The honor was announced in November at the annual conference of the International Association of Film and Television Schools (CILECT), which was held in Beijing and drew participants from around the world, including Tom Fiedler (COM'71), dean of the College of Communication. Fiedler presented the formal



Zhang Yimou

invitation to Zhang at an event organized by BU Trustee Hugo Shong (COM'87, GRS'92), president of the Boston University Alumni Association of China. While BU's honorary degree recipients typically are not re-

vealed until the annual Senior Breakfast in May, President Robert A. Brown says that the University's active Chinese alumni base, as well as Fiedler's involvement in the CILECT conference, made the timing right for the announcement.

Zhang, whose works include *Raise the Red Lantern* and *The House of Flying Daggers*, has earned two Academy Award

nominations and a litany of film festival honors. Known for his striking cinematography and epic portrayals of historic and modern-day China, Zhang garnered international acclaim for his early films everywhere but in China, where they were initially banned by government censors.

Last August, he directed 15,000 actors, musicians, and acrobats in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics before a stadium crowd of 91,000 and television viewers numbering about a billion. As Brown wrote in his invitation to Zhang, they "left the world in awe with their unparalleled beauty and magnificence." CARA FEINBERG