University Posts Record Fundraising Year

Generous gifts push $1 billion campaign past halfway mark

The University has shattered its annual fundraising record of $89 million, set in fiscal year 2011, pulling in $116.9 million in fiscal year 2013. That figure pushes the total of all contributions to the Campaign for Boston University to $532.5 million, just past the halfway mark of the $1 billion campaign less than a year after its public launch.

“This last year was a historic one for Boston University fundraising,” says President Robert A. Brown. “The launch of our comprehensive campaign certainly is creating tremendous momentum for the University. Our alumni and friends are participating in growing numbers, rallying around our plan for growing the quality and impact of the University in undergraduate and graduate education and research.”

Scott Nichols, senior vice president for development and alumni relations, says BU’s billion-dollar goal was considered ambitious just one year ago, because no university had ever set so high a target for its first formal campaign. He says that while the campaign officially opened last fall, a “quiet” period, begun three years ago, brought in some major gifts: $25 million from trustee Rajen Kilachand (GSM’74) to endow the Arvind and Chandan Nandial Kilachand Honors College and $15 million from trustee Bahaa Hariri (SMG’90) to establish the Rafik B. Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Science & Engineering. These and other significant contributions increased the campaign total to $380 million just before the public launch.

“Most campaigns hit a lull,” Nichols says. “We should have hit it by now.” And while he is pleased that momentum remains strong, the former dean for development at Harvard Law School knows from experience that it’s unwise to become too confident. “You never know what economic cycles may give you,” he says.

“So many people are responsible for our success that it is difficult to single out one factor that is responsible,” says Brown. “One factor that I do think is an advantage for us is that the campaign is built around the plan laid out in Choosing To Be Great, which describes the investments we are making in the University. The campaign is making possible the acceleration of this plan, and the results are quickly being felt all across the University, from the new medical school residence to the New Balance Field to the many new endowed professors and the scholarships for student financial aid.”

Nichols credits Brown for the campaign’s early success, and commends trustees and overseers for backing the move in word and deed—collectively, they have pledged $160 million. Equally, alumni have...
$2.5 Million Gift Creates Maria Stata Professorship

Endowment focuses on classical Greek studies

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 and its contributions to culture, art, architecture, philosophy, science, and literature,” says Sapiro. “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’?”

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