

## MED Researcher, Alum Make *TIME*'s Most Influential People List

Ann McKee “may have saved my life,” former San Francisco 49ers linebacker Chris Borland writes in *TIME* magazine’s annual list of the world’s 100 most influential people. Her research into chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), the progressive brain disease crippling many athletes and soldiers, persuaded Borland to abandon pro football after just one season.

Joining McKee, a School of Medicine professor of neurology and pathology, on *TIME*'s list is Carmen Yulín Cruz Soto (CAS'84, Hon.'18), mayor of San Juan, P.R., cited for her “passionate, courageous and articulate”

advocacy for the island after it was devastated by Hurricane Maria last September. The storm caused

up to \$95 billion in damage and plunged the island into a humanitarian crisis. Cruz, who spoke at BU's Baccalaureate Service May 20, received an honorary degree at the University's 145th Commencement (see page 4).

McKee says *TIME*'s honor is a tribute to her research team. They also made news this year with a study suggesting that the disease may not be caused by concussions, as had been suspected, but by repeated head injuries. If true, efforts to protect athletes from concussions would have to be redirected toward the more difficult task of reducing head impacts and “the fundamental danger these activities pose to human health,” McKee said at the time.

In December the *Boston Globe* anointed her 2017 Bostonian of the Year. RICH BARLOW



ANN McKEE

The urban future in metropolises like Shanghai is one of the topics in BU's general education program of courses.



## BU Hub Debuts This Fall

More than 400 classes in University-wide general education program will span disciplines

**S**CIENCE REQUIRES MORE than intelligence, says Richard Samuel Deese (GRS'95,'07), a College of General Studies lecturer in social sciences. “It requires courage.” Deese backs his statement with examples. In addition to Galileo’s famous flip-off to the Vatican when he showed that the Earth circled the sun, Albert Einstein’s political views prompted the subversion-obsessed FBI director J. Edgar Hoover to open a file on the brilliant physicist. Chemical companies spent money smearing Rachel Carson for her exposé of the pesticide DDT’s toxicity in the 1960s.

Less known to Americans, Chinese astrophysicist and human rights activist Fang Lizhi fled to the United States in the 1980s after the People’s Republic spilled blood at Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Scientists who defy authorities, and the social and moral consequences of their defiance, are the subjects of Deese’s fall 2018 class Science and Political Engagement in the 20th Century. It’s one of about 400 classes this fall expected to inaugurate the BU Hub, the first University-wide general education program.

“The Hub,” says its managing director, Amanda Urias, “ensures that all undergraduates, no matter their major, develop intellectual capacities that will teach them to thrive throughout their lives.”

New courses in the Hub will be rolled out semester by semester over the next four years, threading throughout undergraduates’ time at BU, “not only as electives, but in their majors and minors as well,” Urias says. Current students (whose general education requirements won’t change) will