HUNDREDS OF BU ALUMNI and friends in Boston and New York gathered last fall to celebrate the momentum of Boston University. Meghna Chakrabarti (Questrom ’13), cohost of WBUR’s Radio Boston, emceed a program in November at the State Room in Boston; in December, Broadway producer Stewart Lane (CFA ’73) joined Board of Trustees chairman and Campaign for Boston University cochair Robert Knox (CAS ’74, Questrom ’75) to lead the festivities at the Mandarin Oriental in New York. President Robert A. Brown spoke at each event about the campaign’s progress and priorities, and guests were treated to a live performance by the quartet Sons of Serendip—Kendall Ramseur (CFA’12), Cordaro Rodriguez (LAW’12), Micah Christian (STH’12), and Mason Morton (CFA’12, ’15)—a finalist in the 2014 season of America’s Got Talent. This spring: Palm Beach, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C.

The momentum of the campaign has increased each year, and it has raised more than $900 million of the $1 billion goal two years before its scheduled 2017 close. It has been so successful that the BU Board of Trustees boosted the goal to $1.5 billion and extended its run through 2019. Among the objectives of the campaign, officially launched in 2012, are ensuring that BU remains accessible to highly qualified candidates, recruiting and retaining outstanding scholars and teachers, and improving facilities.
Presentations in Boston and New York were followed by a spirited question-and-answer session between President Robert A. Brown and members of the audience.

In a TED talk–style presentation, President Robert A. Brown reviewed the progress made by BU in recent years, described the current state of the University, and spoke of new challenges and opportunities.

BU alumni and friends enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in elegant settings. Palm Beach, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., will be host cities in 2016.

Stewart Lane (CFA'73) was emcee at the New York City event, where more than 200 alumni gathered at the Mandarin Oriental to celebrate the University.

Gerald Schwartz (COM'69) had a question following a presentation. Topics in the question-and-answer portion covered the state of the arts at BU to athletics to the cost of an undergraduate education today.

Guests at events in Boston and New York City had plenty of time to network, catch up with old friends and former classmates, and talk to University leaders.

Micah Christian (STH'12), lead vocalist of Sons of Serendip, told the crowd how the quartet met as students at BU. The group will perform at Choose to Be Great events around the country.

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