

2030 strategic plan

2024 Progress Report



Progress Report

2023-2024

We launched the Arts & Sciences 2030 Strategic Plan during the 2021-2022 academic year. Three years on, we have exciting progress to share. Thanks to the hard work of our faculty and staff, and the generosity of our donors, our strategic initiatives are now growing and thriving. We are grateful to have the funding and endowments to aggressively pursue our strategic priorities and look forward to continuing our important work. This report showcases our accomplishments and progress thus far.

Our 2030 Strategic Plan is designed to catalyze and advance interconnection—both within the college and across the university, through partnerships with BU's professional schools. As we continue our pursuit of knowledge that is changing the world, four cross-cutting, multidisciplinary themes are driving our investments in faculty and infrastructure. To this end, during the past year we have reoriented our approach for strategic support of major, multidisciplinary research projects in the college.

Our 2030 Plan also is designed to be dynamic and nimble. We regularly assess our progress, and adjust our implementation as needed, to maintain our effectiveness in pursuing our strategic goals. One way we are doing this is by focusing more explicitly on the sense of belonging and culture in the college. We strive to be a community where everyone is able to excel and do their best work, learn, grow, participate, and make their best impact. In parallel, we are organizing programs and activities for professional development of faculty and staff, including strengthening mentoring and building networks across the college. Based on community input, we have launched a rebranding of the college that better represents our collective sense of purpose, and the growth and boldness of our ambitions.

As I begin my second term as dean, I look forward to continuing our progress in achieving the major objectives of our 2030 Strategic Plan. Together, we will work to pursue world-class research and teaching that anticipates and addresses the world's challenges, and prepares our students to be thoughtful leaders, critical thinkers, and dedicated doers who envision a better future and are poised to make it happen.

Sincerely,

Stan Sclaroff, Dean of Arts & Sciences

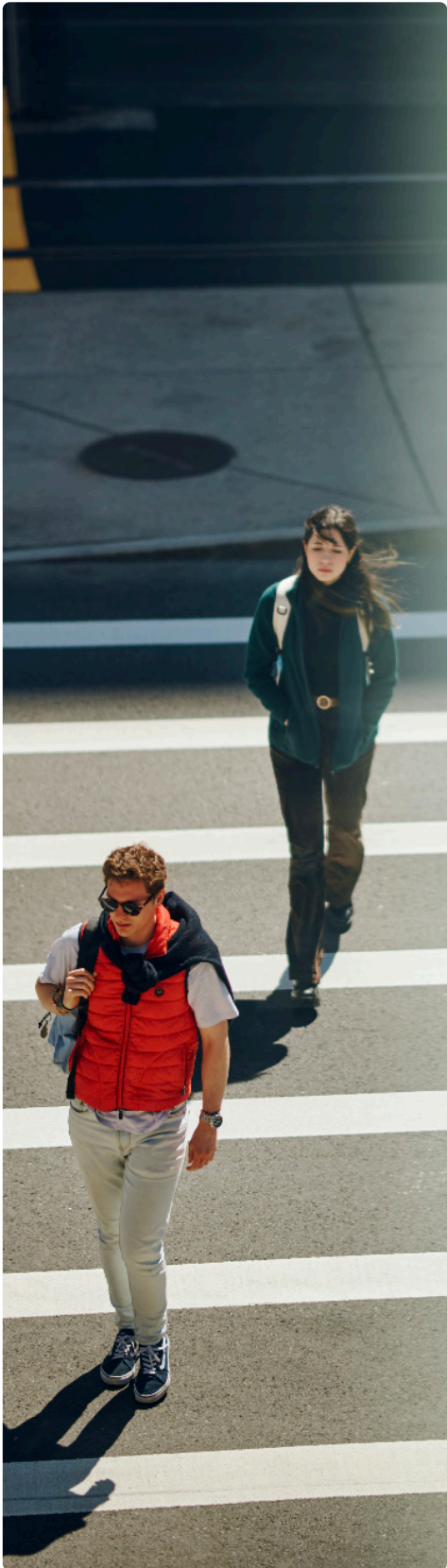
Strategic Priorities & Initiatives

The Strategic Plan defines a set of overarching Strategic Priorities that focus and guide our actions and an initial set of Strategic Initiatives to be implemented. These initiatives all advance multiple priorities. The following report outlines our progress towards implementation.

Strategic Priorities

- 1** Enhance disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaborations and connections in research and education within Arts & Sciences and across BU.
- 2** Cultivate and advance a diverse and inclusive community capable of recognizing, analyzing, and responding to exclusion and injustice with equitable solutions.
- 3** Foster, harness, and apply the power of innovation, creativity, and imagination across our research and teaching endeavors.
- 4** Leverage the power of a liberal arts and sciences undergraduate and graduate education by taking knowledge, ideas, and experience into action.
- 5** Build bridges with Boston and the world outside the academy through communication, public scholarship, alumni networks, collaboration, and outreach.



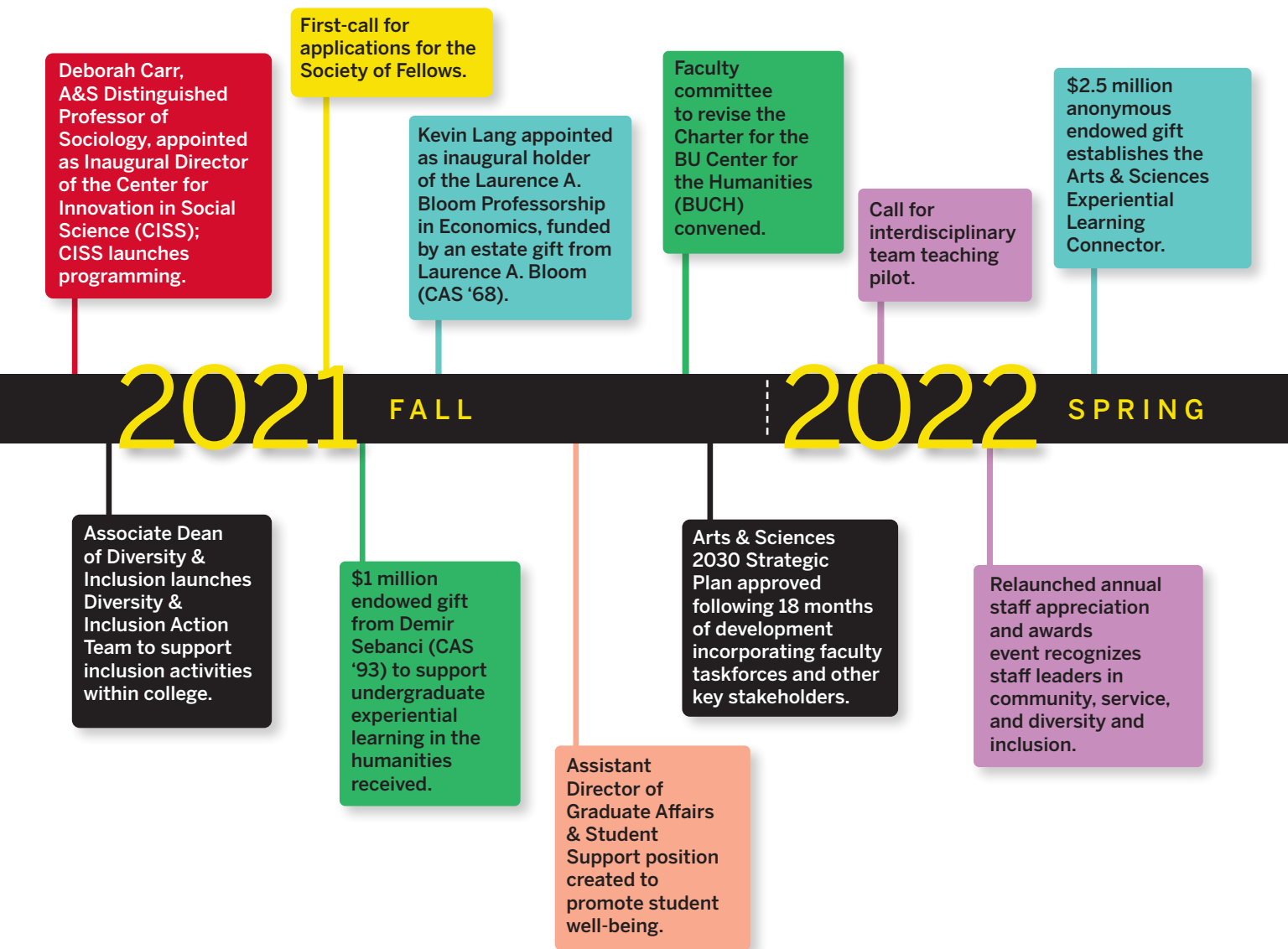
A photograph of two students walking on a crosswalk. In the foreground, a male student with curly hair, wearing sunglasses, a red puffer vest over a grey shirt, and light-colored pants, is walking towards the camera. Behind him, a female student with long dark hair, wearing a green jacket and dark pants, is walking away from the camera. The background shows a dark building and a clear sky.

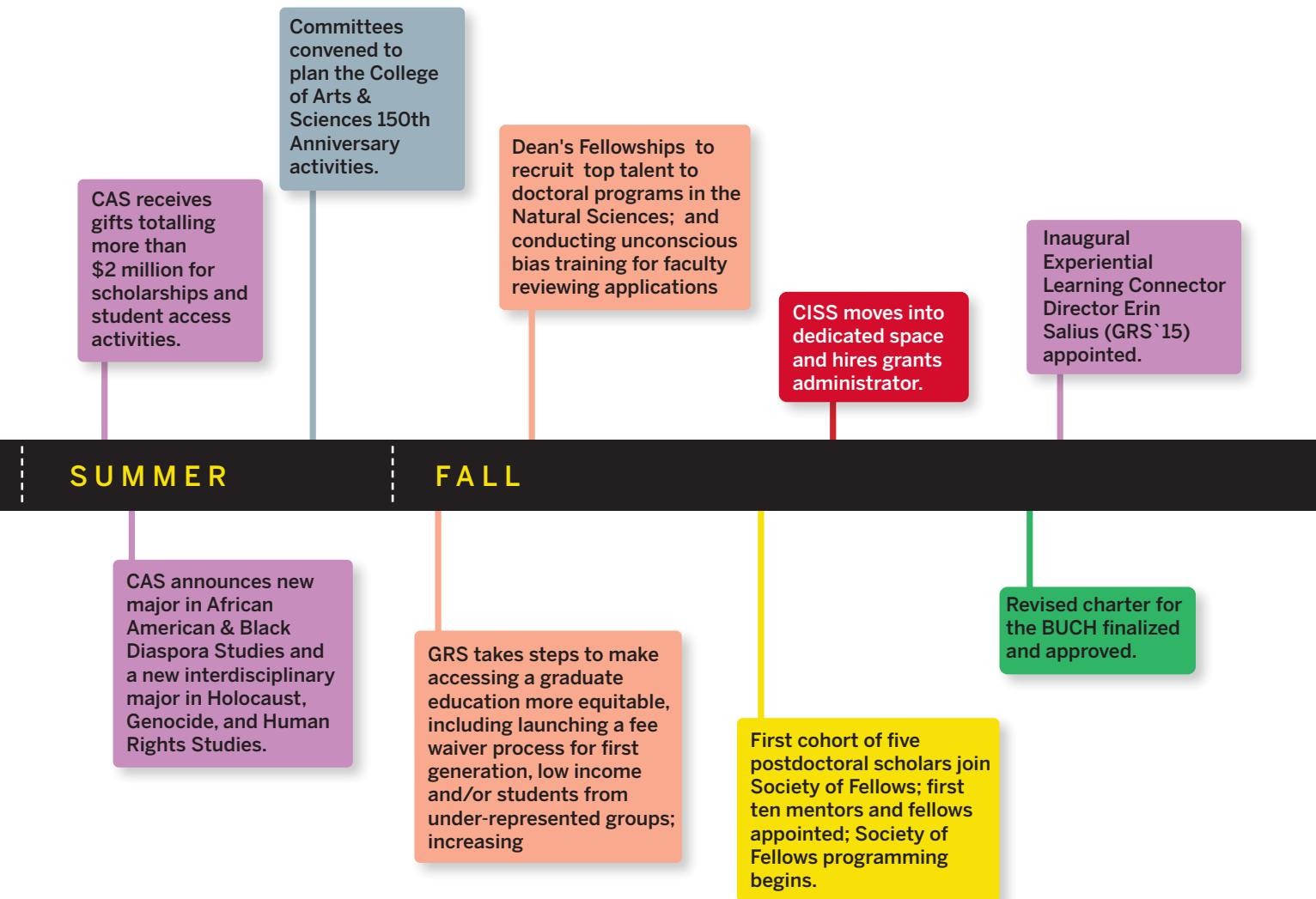
Strategic Initiatives

- 1** Expand the BU Center for Humanities
- 2** Establish the Center for Innovation in Social Science
- 3** Establish the A&S Society of Postdoctoral Fellows
- 4** Foster recruiting and growing our talent
- 5** Reinvigorate graduate education
- 6** Cultivate Arts & Sciences in Action
- 7** Deepen investment in infrastructure

CAS Strategic Initiatives Timeline

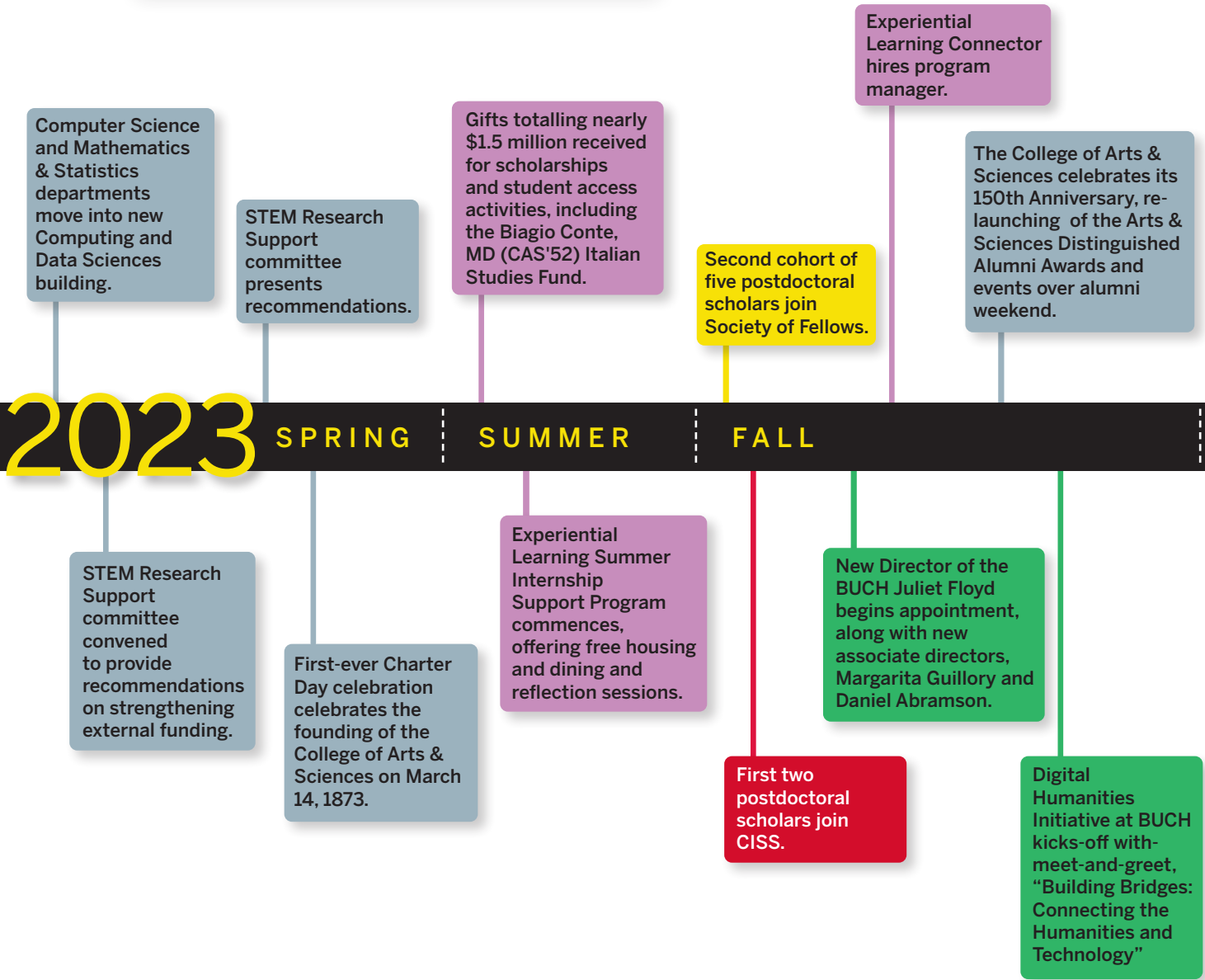
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	PRIORITIES
BU Center for the Humanities (BUCH)	1-5
Center for Innovation in Social Sciences (CISS)	1-5
Society of Fellows	1, 2, 3
Recruiting and Growing Talent	1, 2, 3 & 5
Reinvigorating Graduate Education	1-5
Arts & Sciences in Action	1, 2, 4 & 5
Investment in Infrastructure	1, 3, 5

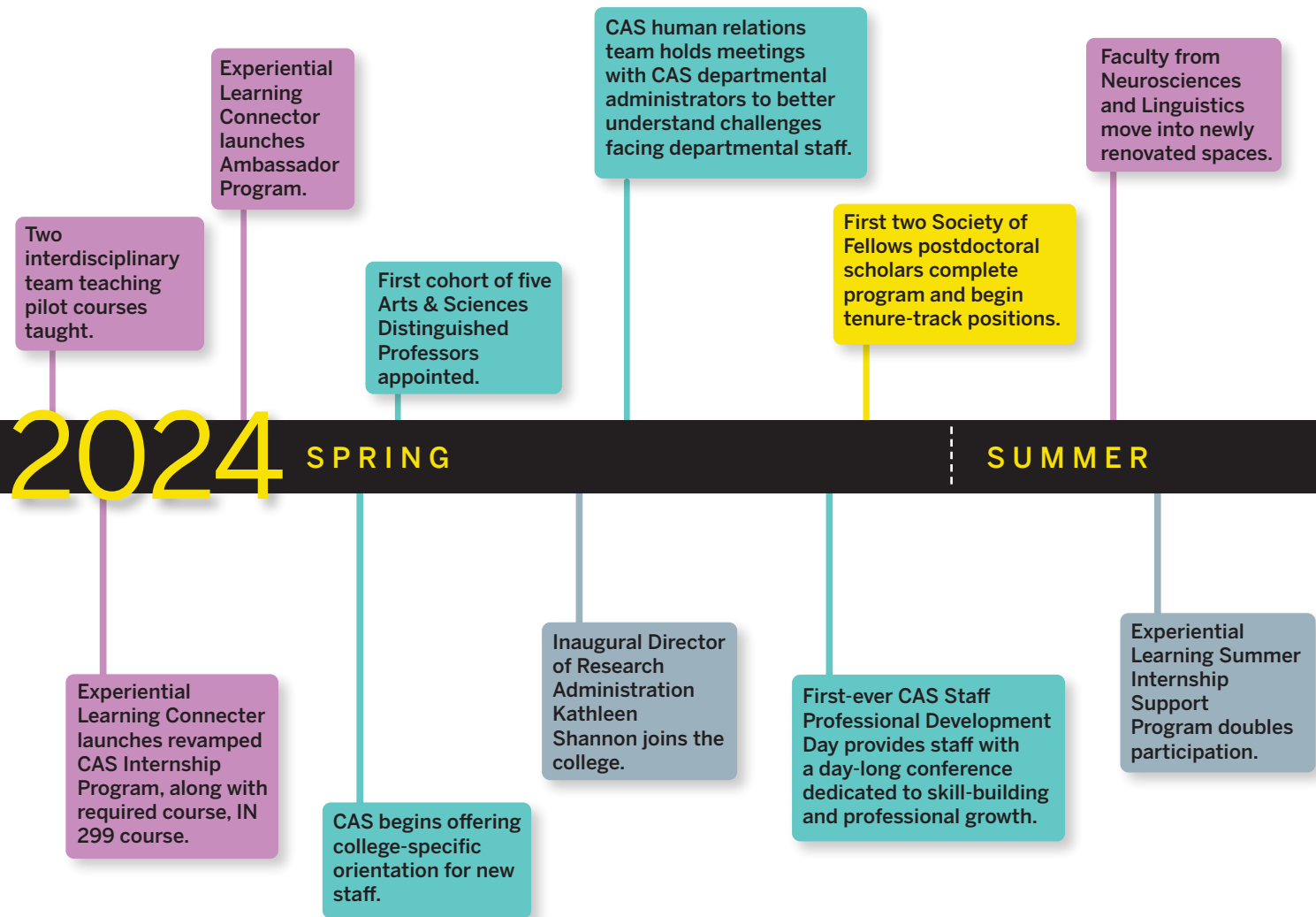




CAS Strategic Initiatives Timeline

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	PRIORITIES
BU Center for the Humanities (BUCH)	1-5
Center for Innovation in Social Sciences (CISS)	1-5
Society of Fellows	1, 2, 3
Recruiting and Growing Talent	1, 2, 3 & 5
Reinvigorating Graduate Education	1-5
Arts & Sciences in Action	1, 2, 4 & 5
Investment in Infrastructure	1, 3, 5





Integrating Our Strategic Priorities

1

Enhance disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaborations and connections in research and education within Arts & Sciences and across BU.



The Big Picture: What Does the Evolution of AI Mean for Our World?

Philosopher **Rachell Powell** isn't afraid of the rapid advancements in artificial intelligence. On the contrary, she is fascinated by the questions AI raises and how it fits into her areas of interest: evolutionary theory and biomedical enhancement ethics.

[View Article](#)



BU Dual Master's Program Aims to Produce Graduates Versed in Environmental Science—and the Economics of Climate Change

Former Vice President Gore's 2006 documentary set Paulina Carreggha Garcia on a career path in the energy field that led to a job analyzing renewable-energy contracts for a Dallas-based consulting firm out of its Mexico City office. "I started realizing that although I did know about energy and sustainability, I was missing a little bit more of the business side," she says. "I really wanted to understand finance more thoroughly."

[View Article](#)

2

Cultivate and advance a diverse and inclusive community capable of recognizing, analyzing, and responding to exclusion and injustice with equitable solutions.



CAS Welcomes New Postdoctoral Cohort

The Society of Fellows at BU Arts & Sciences is a vibrant community of current BU faculty and postdoctoral scholars committed to excellent, innovative research and teaching; interdisciplinary scholarship; and advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the academy. Each year the Society admits five postdoctoral fellows, who are appointed for two-year terms.

[View Article](#)



Memory Serves Them Well

In October 2022, [Steve Ramirez](#), associate professor of neuroscience, received a \$1.15 million Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Science Diversity Leadership Award. The award recognized his mentorship of students from underrepresented backgrounds and his promotion of a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Ramirez, who is a Hispanic American and whose family is from El Salvador, didn't have any Latino mentors in grad school. As a result, he values all the more the role he gets to play in his students' development.

[View Article](#)

3

Foster, harness, and apply the power of innovation, creativity, and imagination across our research and teaching endeavors.



Boundless Possibilities

For nearly two decades, [Pinghua Liu](#) searched for ways to regulate or reverse the human biological clock. His solution may come from an unlikely source: mushrooms. Liu, an associate professor of chemistry, long wondered: If our bodies can grow from birth through puberty—and later break down—is there a way to disrupt and slow the aging process? With the creation of Ergo-health, the company he co-founded with [Mark Grinstaff](#), a professor of chemistry at Arts & Sciences and biomedical engineering at BU's College of Engineering, Liu has taken a major step toward answering that question.

[View Article](#)



Digital Spiritualities

From a podcast about metahumans to Voodoo-themed video games to #witchesofcolor on Instagram, [Margarita Guillory's](#) research leads her into some fascinating corners of the digital and religious universes. Guillory, an associate professor of religion and African American & Black diaspora studies, explores the ways in which African Americans use the internet, social media, mobile applications, and gaming to express their spiritual and religious identities—stories she'll publish in her upcoming book, *Africana Religion in the Digital Age* (Routledge, 2024)

[View Article](#)

4

Leverage the power of a liberal arts and sciences undergraduate and graduate education by taking knowledge, ideas, and experience into action.



Building Better Cities

Record heat waves aren't the only problems cities face. As more people move to urban centers—the [World Bank projects](#) that 70 percent of the world's population will live in cities by 2050—they quicken the spread of disease and exacerbate pollution and economic disparity. Cities will need creative ways to address economic, public health, and social equity issues to thrive amid this growth—and Arts & Sciences has emerged as a leader in researching these challenges, developing solutions, and preparing the next generation of experts.

[View Article](#)



Julie Roginsky's Quest to End NDAs

There are many things that Julie Roginsky can't tell you. For example, the political consultant, onetime TV commentator, and [Lift Our Voices](#) cofounder can't tell you what circumstances prompted her to file a lawsuit alleging sexual harassment and retaliation at Fox News. Roginsky (CAS'95, GRS'95) can't say how the suit was resolved, or whether her portrayal in the film about Fox News CEO Roger Ailes' downfall, *Bombshell*, is accurate.

[View Article](#)

5

Build bridges with Boston and the world outside the academy through communication, public scholarship, alumni networks, collaboration, and outreach.



What the History of Boston's Harbor Can Teach Us about Its Uncertain Future

Reinvention after reinvention, Boston's waterfront persists. And though she's in the early stages of her dissertation, Kane says her findings already highlight the tenacious spirit of Boston and its residents. "The past doesn't necessarily dictate the future," she says, "but it's a way to say, 'We've done this before, we can do it again.'"

[**View Article**](#)



Guren Tapped for Economics Expertise by the City of Boston

Adam Guren didn't expect to end up in housing economics. Now he's providing expert advice on housing to Boston Mayor Michelle Wu. Guren, an associate professor of economics at the BU College of Arts & Sciences, is an active researcher in the fields of macroeconomics and real estate. His research landed him a role on a team authoring a report for Wu evaluating property tax abatement in Boston.

[**View Article**](#)

BU 2030

These strategic priorities align with the five strategic priorities outlined in **Boston University's 2030 Strategic Plan**: 1. A vibrant academic experience; 2. Research that matters; 3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; 4. Community, big yet small; and, 5. Global engagement. It is also important to note that Arts & Sciences remains firmly committed to ensuring all students have access to our education, regardless of financial need.

Strategic Initiatives

Leading in the Humanities: An Expanded Charter for the BU Center for the Humanities (BUCH)

BU has a proud tradition of humanistic scholarship that has enriched our understanding of history, culture, and language. Yet, we've been modest in our ambitions. Since its founding in 1980, the BU Center for the Humanities has been an anchor and home to many of our humanities scholars. Now, with an expanded charter, we're aiming higher—to position BU as a global leader in integrating humanistic scholarship across research, teaching, and engagement.

AY 21/22 & AY 22/23

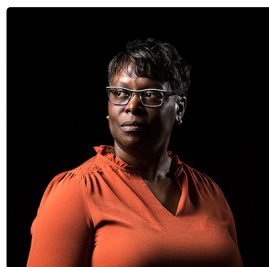
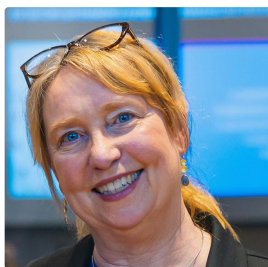
- Delivered annual programming and enhanced community engagement with public lectures, readings, and podcasts. Enhanced community engagement with public lectures, readings, and podcasts, etc.
- Awarded graduate student research fellowships and supported both graduate and undergraduate internships.
- Launched *The One and the Many*, a summer program for low-income high school students from Boston, with a three-year, \$325,000 grant from the Teagle Foundation.
- Convened a five-person faculty charter committee to prepare an expanded charter for BUCH, which was finalized with faculty feedback and approved in AY 22/23.
- Presented an expanded charter, proposing the creation of three focused initiatives on humanities leadership; digital humanities; and humanities in the world.
- Appointed [Juliet Floyd](#), the Borden Parker Bowne Professor of Philosophy, as the new Director of the BUCH in Spring 2023.
- Created two new associate director positions: associate director of digital humanities, held by [Margarita Guillory](#), associate professor of religion; and associate director of humanities leadership, held by [Daniel Abramson](#), professor of history of art and architecture.
- Established \$1 million endowment for undergraduate and graduate student experiential learning in the humanities with a gift from Demir Sabanci (CAS '93).

AY 23/24

- Welcomed new leadership as well as a new managing director Kurt Cavender.
- Launched **“Digital Humanities”** initiative with “Building Bridges: Connecting the Humanities and Technology” a meet-and-greet with colleagues across the college and university who employ digital approaches in their research.
- Piloted the creation of the **“Digital Creators Award in the Humanities”** to increase the visibility of excellent work already undertaken by undergraduates.
- Launched **“Humanities in the World”** initiative by convening interdisciplinary events, including “Mathematics with a Human Face,” which explored the human element in mathematics, and was funded by the Norwegian Research Council and co-hosted by BU’s Center for the Philosophy and History of Science.
- Received a second \$1 million gift from Demir Sabanci (CAS, ‘93) to establish the Demir Sabanci Humanities Endowment which will support the BUCH.

AY 24/25 - The Year Ahead

- Launch the “Humanities Leadership” initiative, designed to explore how to foster approaches and training in leadership for the humanities.
- Continue expanding and deepening the “Digital Humanities” initiative and the “Humanities in the World” initiative. Planning is underway for a BUCH-led university-wide forum on pedestrian spaces in Spring 2026 and the relaunch of summer programming, including the “BU Great Books Program” for high school students.



Strategic Initiatives

Catalyzing the Social Sciences: Creating a Thriving Center for Innovation in Social Science (CISS)

BU has long excelled in the social sciences, but our strengths have been scattered across departments without a unified hub to fully harness their potential. The Center for Innovation in Social Science (CISS), which opened in September 2021, changes that. It is a dedicated space for incubating and supporting research, forging collaborative multidisciplinary faculty research partnerships, and training future generations of undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral scholars in the social sciences and related fields. CISS is a whole greater than the sum of its parts. By leveraging state-of-the-art methods and approaches, the Center is unlocking the social sciences' power to transform lives.

AY 21/22 & AY 22/23

- Formed [Steering Committee](#), to establish policies, procedures and programming.
- Appointed more than 110 [faculty affiliates](#) representing a dozen Arts & Sciences departments/programs and over ten BU schools and centers.
- Established website, weekly digest, and social media presence
- Created academic-year undergraduate [research internships](#). 20 interns (and 19 faculty mentors) have now completed the program.
- Initiated [pilot grants](#) to support interdisciplinary research projects and summer [“mini-grants”](#) for faculty and student research and travel.
- Organized professional development [workshops](#) and coordinated topical research working groups for graduate students and faculty.
- Built programs to promote and support external grant activity, including workshops, individual meetings with PIs, [grants “Q&A”](#) webpages, interdisciplinary team formation (one of these teams won a \$200k grant).
- Partnered with Provost’s Office and Graduate School to support and secure placements for social science PhD summer [internships](#).

AY 23/24

- Expanded to 29 mini grants with support from the T. Scott Miyakawa Endowment Fund for the Social Sciences.
- Offered new workshops on book publishing, featuring editors from major university presses; “editor’s confidential” sharing tips on publishing in peer-review journals; and op-ed writing.
- Held grant feedback networks, and drop-in writing groups to foster ongoing faculty and graduate student research projects.
- Established the [Summer Social Science Writing Internship Program \(SWIP\)](#), a joint project with Writing in the Disciplines, funded by the Psalm 103 Foundation.
- Partnered with BU Spark! to support nine social science projects (more than the four awarded in 22-23) carried out by CDS data science and AI students.
- Initiated a postdoctoral scholars program; [two postdocs](#) joined the center in Fall 2023 following a competitive process which attracted more than 150 applications.
- Co-sponsored a range of events and lectures including the [Good Friday Agreement](#) 25 Years On, [Gentrification and Displacement conference](#).
- Facilitated 33 new external grants applications—a 50 percent increase over FY23, when 22 were submitted. The total amount proposed this past year was \$4.17M (27 percent increase over FY23). As of August 2024, a total of nine proposals were funded authorizing \$389,269 (with most other proposals still pending).
- Grant administrator provided support to approximately 35 existing grants (previously managed by departments) totaling \$4.5M.

AY 24/25 - The Year Ahead

- Continue expanding externally funded research; work with DAR to secure philanthropic support.
- Expand innovative experiential learning opportunities for undergraduates including our academic year mentored research internships; summer writing in the social sciences internship (SWIP); and collaborations with BU Spark! on data intensive projects.
- Continue to foster and support collaborative research initiatives among faculty, post docs, and graduate students.

Strategic Initiatives

The Future of the Academy: Arts & Sciences Society of Fellows

Vibrant interdisciplinary scholarship that challenges convention and expands our knowledge, innovative research and teaching that reshapes our undergraduates' experiences, and diverse voices that bring new perspectives and enhance our inclusive community start with programs like the [Arts & Sciences Society of Fellows](#).

The Society of Fellows propels junior scholars, builds intellectual and interdisciplinary community, addresses historic gaps in the faculty pipeline, and establishes CAS as a leader in inclusivity and scholarly growth. By convening this community of BU faculty and postdoctoral scholars, we have committed to investing in the future.

AY 21/22 & AY 22/23

- Launched the inaugural call for applications in October 2021 and received more than 600 applications.
- Appointed ten faculty fellows to shape and build the intellectual community of the society and establish a robust mentoring program.
- Welcomed inaugural cohort of five [postdoctoral scholars](#) in Anthropology, Archaeology, Classics, History of Art & Architecture, and Religion.
- Developed professional and academic development programming to support the postdoctoral scholars, in addition to advancing their independent research activities.
- Celebrated the recruitment of two postdoctoral scholars from the first cohort to tenure track positions at CUNY-City College and Loyola Marymount University. Both completed their second year in the Society before moving into their positions.
- Hired program manager to direct the society and support graduate development at large
- Held second year of recruitment with similarly large application numbers.

AY 23/24

- Welcomed the second cohort of five new postdoctoral scholars to the society in African American & Black Diaspora Studies, Earth & Environment, English, Physics, and Sociology, along with five additional faculty fellows.
- Refreshed programming to accommodate two cohorts, including postdoctoral scholar-led colloquia, a writing retreat, and summer writing groups.
- Agreed to third-year placements for two postdoctoral scholars from the first cohort.
- Recruited third cohort of postdoctoral scholars in African American & Black Diaspora Studies, Political Science, and Religion.
- Facilitated first two-year term rotations of faculty fellows.

AY 24/25 - The Year Ahead

- Refine programming to reflect on community-building and promote interdisciplinary scholarly discussions, while also advancing professional development.
- Continue to recruit outstanding interdisciplinary scholars who are committed to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Work with BU Foundation Relations and Development & Alumni Relations to develop a plan for external funding to support society's activities.



Strategic Initiatives

The Future of Our Community: Recruiting and Growing Our Talent

People are the heart of Arts & Sciences. Recruiting and retaining top faculty, staff, and students is crucial to our mission and our reputation for excellence. People are the single biggest factor in the work that we do. Our commitment is clear: attract outstanding talent and foster a vibrant, engaged community where everyone can excel and thrive.

AY 21/22 & AY 22/23

- Created and appointed three externally-funded endowed professorships.
- Secured more than \$3.5 million to support scholarships and student access activities.
- Focused on community building for staff, including holding more formal and informal events and revamping our faculty and staff newsletter.
- Relaunched the annual Staff Appreciation and Awards Reception to recognize staff leaders in community, service, and diversity and inclusion.
- Began giving welcome messages and gifts to new faculty and staff.
- Initiated work to assess and enhance faculty mentoring.
- Began a multi-year, interdisciplinary faculty recruiting initiative in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in collaboration with the Faculty of Computing and Data Sciences.
- Launched annual Inclusive Pedagogy Institute, created in partnership by the CAS Diversity and Inclusion Action Team and the Center for Teaching & Learning; over 50 faculty, graduate students, and postdocs have participated.
- Launched the CAS Staff Institute, a staff development program on topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion created by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

AY 23/24

- Created the [A&S Distinguished Professorships](#), a professorship funded for five years to recognize Arts & Sciences faculty members of international renown in any field, who have demonstrated a sustained record of excellence in research, teaching, and service.

- Appointed the first five holders: [Deborah Carr](#), Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center of Innovation in Social Science; [Lucy Hutyra](#), Professor of Earth & Environment and Director of the Biogeosciences Program; [Cheryl Knott](#), Professor and Associate Chair of Anthropology; [Andrei Ruckenstein](#), Professor of Physics; [Pamela Templer](#), Professor and Chair of Biology and Director of the Graduate Program in Urban Biogeoscience and Environmental Health.
- Secured the Lisa and Mitchell Green Endowment for Humanities Faculty, a \$1 million endowment to support faculty research, particularly in History of Art and Architecture
- Started three-year, interdisciplinary faculty recruiting initiative in Quantum Science, Engineering, and Computing (QSEC) in collaboration with the College of Engineering.
- Made first hires in the AI recruiting initiative in Philosophy & Ethics and Computer Science.
- Conducted pilot program on improving mentor training for faculty and staff mentors.
- Held inaugural [CAS Staff Professional Development Day](#), a day-long conference, led by the CAS Professional Development Committee, attended by over 150 staff.
- Launched CAS specific onboarding program based on feedback from new hires.
- Held sessions with departmental administrators to better understand their challenges.
- Included administrators in several Chairs and Directors Meetings.
- Celebrated the college's [150th Anniversary](#) over Alumni Weekend, including a relaunch of the A&S Distinguished Alumni Awards, as well as hosting 20+ departmental events, walking tours, and a retrospective on the history of the College with past Deans.

AY 24/25 - The Year Ahead

- Launch a faculty & staff intranet — centralized space for resources, forms, calendars, and news.
- Build out further support structures for administrators (e.g. shared calendar) and include administrators in relevant Chair/Director meetings.
- Prepare and launch enhanced mentoring programs for faculty and staff, and strengthen the onboarding process for new faculty and staff.
- Continue Quantum Search and AI Search and launch Sustainability cluster search.
- Build on engagement momentum created by the 150th Anniversary celebrations.
- Continue fundraising efforts for professorships and scholarships.

Strategic Initiatives

Preparing for Success: Reinvigorating Graduate Education

Enhance the stature of the Graduate School's programs and ensure that we prepare our graduates for success and leadership beyond BU. We'll achieve this by taking an integrated approach to graduate education that extends beyond rigorous research and scholarly training to provide an environment in which all our students thrive. We are prioritizing stronger services and resources for student wellness, financial stability, and career readiness, ensuring our students succeed in their studies and excel after graduation.

AY 21/22 & AY 22/23

- Created and appointed three externally-funded endowed professorships.
- Partnered with the BU Professional Development & Postdoctoral Affairs program to promote a micro-credential program.
- Instituted relocation assistance grants to help first generation, low income (FGLI) admitted graduate students in moving to Boston.
- Implemented 10-month stipend funding model for all incoming PhD students.
- Implemented Graduate Research in the United States Fellowship (GRUF) for PhD and MFA students to provide funding for domestic research opportunities.
- Implemented the Graduate Internship Funding Program (GIF) to support students in putting their education to use through internships that would have been unpaid.
- Advanced the diversification of the student body by participating in initiatives such as the **GEM** scholars and attending conferences hosted by organizations serving minoritized populations (**ABCRMs**, **BDN**, **NOBCChE**, **POSSE**, **SACNAS**, etc).
- Streamlined the fee waiver process to remove the financial burden of applying to BU for first generation, low income, and/or students from under-represented groups.
- Increased the number of Dean's Fellowships to recruit top talent to our doctoral programs in the Natural Sciences.

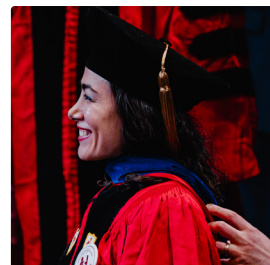
- Developed new trainings for faculty on eliminating unconscious bias in application reviews to ensure an equitable review of all applicants.

AY 23/24

- Hired assistant dean for master's marketing and enrollment, Kirstie Miller.
- Initiated work with the Office of the Associate Provost of Graduate Affairs to implement the recommendations of the [BU Taskforce on Graduate Education](#).
- Continued to proactively facilitate student well-being, with ongoing graduate assistant programming such as the Graduate Research Fellowships for the US and abroad; culturally relevant programming and communications, and student-centric events and communications.
- Created a new form for faculty when students are failing, having mental health issues, and/or not taking their advice to seek help.

AY 24/25 - The Year Ahead

- Implement the recommendations of the BU Taskforce on Graduate Education; key areas focus on holistic view of graduate education and student experience.
- Implement new graduate PhD funding model with increased funding and stipends.
- Focus on master's programs and their student experience, including professional development and careers.
- Create a new interdisciplinary PhD training program in sustainable energy research, funded by a 5-year \$3M [NSF Research Traineeship](#) grant.



Strategic Initiatives

Taking Arts & Sciences into Action: The Experiential Learning Connector, Team Teaching, and More

In an uncertain and challenging world, we believe a liberal arts and sciences degree is one of the most powerful tools our graduates can be equipped with to navigate an unpredictable future and make a positive impact in their communities. The Arts & Sciences in Action initiative shows how critical thinking, effective communication, and cultivated exploration translate into real-world results, both inside and outside the classroom.

The centerpiece of this initiative is The [CAS Experiential Learning Connector](#), a new resource center for undergraduates. In addition to increasing access to experiential learning, the Connector guides students in reflecting on their classroom and real-world experiences. This process helps students to translate their experiential learning into skills and competencies that prepare them for whatever the future might hold.

AY 21/22 & AY 22/23

- Secured a \$2.5 million anonymous endowed gift to launch the CAS Experiential Learning Connector.
- Appointed inaugural CAS Experiential Learning Connector Director [Erin Salius \(GRS'15\)](#) in December 2022, following a rigorous and competitive search process.
- Launched a series of programs following consultations with students, including peer mentoring, summer internship support for six students, and career panels, as well as a website, newsletter content, and social media to build awareness.
- Continued to fundraise for the CAS Experiential Learning Connector's activities.

AY 23/24

- Hired a [program manager](#) to lead new programs and expanded offerings.
- Launched the CAS Internship Program, which provides course credit and a BU Hub unit to students interning at qualified organizations, alongside taking IN 299, a course focused on career readiness. 13 students enrolled, including international students.

- Launched the Experiential Learning Ambassador Program, five student positions dedicated to increasing awareness of EL and expanded peer mentoring.
- Continued to build programming to ensure student access to low or non-paid experiential learning activities, especially internships; expanded summer internship support to 12 students.
- Enhanced awareness and access to the Experiential Learning Connector with refreshed branding and expanded website, including filter capacity to find experiential learning opportunities.
- View [Impact Report](#) for more.

AY 24/25 - The Year Ahead

- Reach 400 students through workshops and Experiential Learning Ambassador programming.
- Double size of the CAS Internship Program and the Experiential Learning Mentoring program.
- Increase the number of students receiving summer internship support.
- Increase access for supporting faculty work with experiential learning.
- Continue expanding philanthropic support.

Team Teaching

Additional efforts to bring the Arts & Sciences into action have included new initiatives such as a team-teaching pilot.

AY 21/22 & AY 22/23

- Launched call for applications for pilot in Spring 2022; received six applications; and selected two courses: Bodies, Science, and the Environment, bringing together Political Science, History, and Earth & Environment, and Introduction to Environmental Humanities, bringing together English, Anthropology, and Earth & Environment.

AY 23/24

- Held both courses in Spring 2024.

AY 24/25 - The Year Ahead

- Assess outcomes of pilots and refine future approaches.

Strategic Initiatives

I Investing in our Future: Supporting Infrastructure

To drive cutting-edge research and teaching, we need top-tier facilities: state-of-the-art classrooms, research labs across all disciplines, centralized data infrastructure, and strategic support for innovation and interdisciplinary research. We are committed to investing in these assets to better recruit and support faculty and staff.

Physical Structures: Ensuring appropriate space that supports and advances our strategic priorities in teaching and research.

AY 21/22 & AY 22/23

- Opened renovated space for the new Center for Innovation in Social Science.
- Moved Computer Science and Mathematics & Statistics into the new Center for Computing & Data Sciences building.
- Worked with Provost to develop plans that will bring together neuro and brain science faculty, students, staff, and labs within the building vacated by CS and MS.
- Developed design concept and plan for CAS Experiential Learning Connector, and updated space program for an expanded BU Center for the Humanities (BUCH).

AY 23/24

- Completed renovations of new space for neuroscience and brain science faculty.
- Completed work for the Linguistics Department to move locations.
- Continued investment in shared undergraduate laboratory equipment upgrades.
- Developed conceptual design for teaching labs in introductory chemistry courses.

AY 24/25 - The Year Ahead

- Better define natural sciences lab space needs.
- Launch detailed planning and fundraising for a new Economics building.

Research Support: Enhance College support for grant seeking and grant management.

AY 22/23

- Hired grants administrator in the Center for Innovation in Social Science.
- Appointed ad hoc committee to assess college support for STEM Research, including support for multi-investigator, interdisciplinary grants. Report received in Spring 2023.

AY 23/24

- Hired the inaugural Director for Research Administration, Kathleen Shannon, to develop the research administration office and support efficiencies, compliance and community to advance CAS research
- Supported research administrators with cross-college communication channels and shared onboarding/training manuals to build efficiencies and consistencies in grants administration across the college.
- Launched [Pskowski Jr Research Fund](#) with a \$45k gift to provide research support to junior faculty members in the humanities.
- Completed re-skinning of [Perkins Telescope](#) dome.

AY 24/25 - The Year Ahead

- Support new protocols to support a seamless and more transparent proposal process for faculty and administrators.
- Support early-, mid- and late-career faculty with growing research by piloting year-long faculty development programs.
- Assess existing collaborative science efforts and grow partnerships with various administrators (in foundation relations, industry engagement, research development, government relations, community relations) to bolster old and generate new collaborations across the university that align with CAS strategic initiatives and diversify funding sources.

University-wide Initiatives

In addition to these initiatives, Arts & Sciences is playing a pivotal role in the initiatives outlined in the University-wide 2030 Strategic Plan. For example, major University initiatives like the Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences, the Initiative on Cities, and the Sustainability Initiative are led by Arts & Sciences faculty. Arts & Sciences is an essential leader in undergraduate education, including the BU Hub, as well as a key partner for the University Libraries and the home for the Humanities at BU.



Boston University

College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

725 Commonwealth Avenue

Boston, MA 02215

2030 Strategic Plan

Progress Report 2024

