



# CLUB SPORTS

# YEAR IN REVIEW

*2021-2022*



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# SUMMARY

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The Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (PERD) department at Boston University leads the Club Sports program. The PERD management team, reporting to Auxiliary Services, also manages the Fitness & Recreation Center, credit bearing physical education classes, intramural sports and non-credit fitness, recreation and wellness programming.

Club Sports at Boston University comprises 34 different women's, men's and co-ed teams with approximately 1,200 student-athletes who compete regionally and nationally. Over the course of its more than 45-year history, the Club Sports program has produced tens of thousands of alumni who continue to support and cheer for their teams today. The fundamental way that Club Sports differ from varsity teams are the leadership roles and opportunities for student-athletes. The student-led nature of Club Sports, coupled with administrative team training and development allow the athletes to cultivate real-life skills in leadership and management that are transferable to work and life pursuits during and after college.

With guidance, mentorship, and oversight from the PERD management staff, each Club Sport elects officers to guide the team in the competitive direction desired by their teammates. While some Club Sports choose to be more recreational in nature, most elect to be highly competitive and build their schedules accordingly, to compete in regional and national championships. In 2021-2022, 14 of 34 Club Sport teams advanced collectively and individually to their respective national tournaments, including Figure Skating which captured its fourth straight title and sixth in program history.

Club Sports has become a staple program at nearly every top college and university in America. The last estimate by the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) placed Club Sports participation at over 2 million student-athletes nationwide, compared to less than 500,000 NCAA varsity athletes. Club Sports is increasingly a factor in the college selection process by many students, and their participation is often a critical part of their college experience.

*“Not only did the Equestrian Club play a role in my decision to attend BU, but it is a major reason I stayed here, too. Freshman year was a tough adjustment period having moved across the country from California, and the close friendships I formed by competing with members of the team every weekend were the highlights of my early experience at BU. Four years later, I am endlessly thankful for this team and the many people I was able to share it with.”*

*-Taylor Schissel (ENG '22)*

# FACTS, FIGURES, AND HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2021-2022

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Boston University has one of the largest and most comprehensive Club Sport programs in New England. Our teams continue to attract and retain a diverse mix of students who are interested in a wide range of sports from throughout the world.

- **TEAMS:** 34
- **ATHLETES:** 1,335
- **MILES DRIVEN:** 47,028
- **STATES VISITED:** 21
- **DOLLARS FUNDRAISED:** \$259,721
- **HOURS OF PRACTICE:** 7,185
- **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES:** 14

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Club Sport teams continue to achieve competitive success on the regional and national level. Our athletes are regularly recognized for both their competitive skill as well as their leadership qualities. Some achievements and awards from this year include:

1. **EQUESTRIAN:** 4<sup>th</sup> Place at IHSA Zone 1 Championships. Rider Elizabeth Nevins finished in 8<sup>th</sup> Place at the IHSA National Championships.
2. **FENCING:** 12<sup>th</sup> Place for Combined Teams at USCFA National Championship. 4<sup>th</sup> Place for Women's Team at USCFA National Championships. Fencer Esther Zhu finished in 7<sup>th</sup> Place for Women's Sabre at USCFA National Championships.
3. **FIGURE SKATING:** Won the US Figure Skating Intercollegiate National Championship. Had the largest margin of victory in competition history for their 6<sup>th</sup> title in team history and 4<sup>th</sup> straight.
4. **GYMNASTICS:** Gymnast Sara Kolaczyk finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place on Beam at the NAIGC National Championships.
5. **ROLLER HOCKEY:** Made it to the Elite 8 at the NCRHA National Championships.
6. **SAILING:** 15<sup>th</sup> Place for Open Team at ICSA National Championships.
7. **TABLE TENNIS:** 5<sup>th</sup> Place for Women's Team at NCTTA College Table Tennis Championships.
8. **WOMEN'S ULTIMATE:** Qualified for the USA Ultimate College Championships for the first time.

# COLLABORATIONS

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The Club Sports program collaborates and interfaces with numerous other campus programs and departments throughout the year. Many people contribute to our success, and we strive to enhance the culture of the campus and surrounding community.

- **ALUMNI & FRIENDS:** Created a “Club Sports Network” page on BU Connects. Our program sees this platform as a great opportunity for club sport alumni to provide mentorship or even employment opportunities to our current student-athletes.
- **DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS:** The #TerriersTogether and Giving Day fundraising initiatives were once again a tremendous success for Club Sport teams, securing over 2,840 donations and more than \$168,650 combined. Club Sports has now finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in total donations behind only varsity athletics three of the last four years.
- **SARP:** Once every other year, each Club Sport team participates in the *Step Up Step In BU* (SUSIBU) program offered by the Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center. Promoting awareness of SARP and their prevention programs helps to strengthen our campus community and promote leadership amongst our athletes.
- **STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE:** Every Welcome Week SAO provides our program the chance to take part in SPLASH, BU’s annual student group fair. This is the biggest recruitment opportunity for all 34 of our Club Sports.
- **STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES:** The Athletic Training program provides prevention, evaluation and diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation for our athletes. The AT staff is extremely helpful and works tirelessly to accommodate the needs of our teams.



Photos from SPLASH 2021 on Nickerson Field on Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.

# ALUMNI OUTREACH

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The desire of our alumni to stay connected to their teams remains high. In addition to helping teams financially through their generous donations, each year many alumni also find their way back to campus to meet and reconnect with each other and the current team.

Collectively, our club teams hosted **10 separate alumni events this year with an estimated 200 attendees**. Our program expects those numbers to double during the 2022-2023 school year as teams were unable to plan these alumni events due to limited time after pandemic restrictions were lifted. Some of the noteworthy events included:

- **WATER POLO AUSTIN BRASHEARS' MEMORIAL ALUMNI TOURNAMENT:** Both clubs worked together to put on a memorial tournament for former Men's Water Polo athlete Austin Brashear who passed away in 2012. This event saw a record 80 alumni return to campus to honor Austin's life. The teams collected donations from businesses in the Boston area to raffle off. When all was said and done, \$2,600 was raised to add to the scholarship fund in Austin's name.
- **TABLE TENNIS 1<sup>ST</sup> ALUMNI TOURNAMENT:** The club held their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Alumni Tournament during the last weekend of the spring semester. This brought over 20 former athletes to FitRec spanning the entire 27 years of the team's existence. Also, the club's first ever President was one of the attendees.
- **MEN'S RUGBY 49<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** They held their 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Game on Nickerson Field on April 29<sup>th</sup> during a weekend full of bonding events. The game included over 40 past rugby athletes. We have already started the planning for their big 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next spring.



*The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Austin Brashears' Memorial Alumni Tournament was held on Sat., April 2<sup>nd</sup> in FitRec.*

## AWARDS

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Each year our program highlights a select few student-athletes who have gone above and beyond in a specific aspect of their club responsibilities. The recipients of these awards were selected from **over 65 nominations submitted by Club Sport teammates and coaches**. We honored these winners at our Annual Club Sports Presidents' Dinner, and they now have their names etched onto a progressive plaque located on the second floor of the BU FitRec Center. We task our students with leaving their club better than they found it, and these represent some of our best and brightest. Our award winners from the 2021-2022 school year are as follows:

- **Competitive Excellence: Paige Dong, Figure Skating**

*This award is given to a student-athlete who achieves greatness on the field of play.*

Just a freshman, Paige finished in 1<sup>st</sup> Place in every competition in which she participated this past school year. Highlighted by her performance at Nationals where she was crowned the Intermediate Ladies Champion for Short and Long Program.

- **Competitive Excellence: Yiqi Zou, Table Tennis**

*This award is given to a student-athlete who achieves greatness on the field of play.*

Yiqi claimed 1<sup>st</sup> Place for the Lower New England Divisional Singles Champion which was a major factor in the team placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the Women's Division booking them a trip to Nationals. At Nationals, she represented BU in Women's Team, Double, and Single events. She was main reason the team placed 5<sup>th</sup> for Women's Team at the NCTTA College Table Tennis Championships.

- **Leadership: Sydney Bechtel, Women's Ice Hockey**

*This award is given to the student-athlete that takes charge of their club and steers other towards excellence whether on or off the field.*

During her junior year as President of her club Sydney organized several success fundraising initiatives, held countless social events, and most importantly helped the team navigate a scary medical situation during the fall.



Paige Dong, FS



Yiqi Zou, Table Tennis



Sydney Bechtel, WIH

## AWARDS

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- **Advancement: Aiden Cliff, Roller Hockey**

*This award is given to the student-athlete that took their club to a higher level than expected.*

During his second consecutive year as President, Aiden put his club front and center on the national stage. He organized the club's first ever Skate-A-Thon, which raised over \$7,200 to fund their trip to Nationals in Michigan. He also recruited and retained over 25 athletes. While FitRec's 3-court gym was inaccessible in the fall due to COVID clinics, he worked to find external solutions in the form of rented time at an off-campus roller rink on the North Shore.

- **Team of The Year: Figure Skating**

*This award is given to the club that exceeded our program's expectations and succeeded on and off the field of play.*

In 2021-2022, Figure Skating won the US Figure Skating Intercollegiate National Championship for the 6<sup>th</sup> time in program history and were undefeated throughout their entire competitive season.

During the school year they raised over \$10,300 for their #PledgeThePit campaign to renovate their locker room. The club has over 50 committed members and continue to attract and retain students.



*Aiden Cliff, Roller Hockey*



*2021-2022 Figure Skating*

*"I have come to value every member of the Fencing Club and now realize that they are my extended family. I will always be able to reach out to them after college. We have been through a lot together and that has formed a strong bond that will last for the rest of my life."*

*-Steven Bennett (QST '22)*



# AWARDS

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## BARBARA PINCH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

In March of 2019, our program honored former Figure Skating Coach Barbara Pinch by naming our Distinguished Service Award in her honor. Barbara worked at the University for over 35 years. In her time at Boston University, she started the skating program which included recreational PDP classes, the Learn to Skate Program, and the competitive skating clubs – both Figure and Synchronized Skating. She is also credited as the founder of the Intercollegiate Team Competition, which now has blossomed into over 140 colleges across the country. Current Figure Skating Coach Andrea Mohns-Brillaud said this of her, “Barb’s most important contribution to the University was her smile and welcoming personality. That brought her students and athletes together in a community that supported them and helped them to navigate college successfully.” Each year we honor a coach who provides significant contributions to the Club Sport program and service to the students at BU.

- **2021 Distinguished Service Award: *Peter Kreitchet, Kung Fu***

Peter has been a staple in the Kung Fu Club at Boston University for 25 years. He has instructed and mentored hundreds of martial art athletes during his time at BU. Current President Yuanyuan Chen said this of Peter’s influence on the club, “He has been an amazing coach and a great mentor. He understands each athlete and makes sure that we can push ourselves to be even better. With his easygoing and fun personality, Peter has made Kung Fu practices the highlight of my week!”

- **2022 Distinguished Service Award: *Gerard LaFond, Men’s Water Polo***

Gerard has been the head coach of the Men’s Water Polo Club here on campus for just under ten years. He was selected as the New England CWPA Coach of the Year three years in a row (2018-2020). He has also led the clubs to numerous high finishes in the New England Division.



*Peter and Gerard received their award at our Annual Club Sports Presidents’ Dinner on May 4<sup>th</sup>.*

## TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

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- **BADMINTON:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Place at the Fall 2021 Eastern Collegiate Northern Conference Tournament. Men's 1<sup>st</sup> Place and Mixed Doubles 3<sup>rd</sup> Place at MassBad Tournament. 4<sup>th</sup> Place at the Spring 2022 Eastern Collegiate Team Badminton Championship.
- **BASEBALL:** Finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the NCBA New England Division II with an 8-7 record. After the fall season they ranked Top 20 in the Nation. Raised just under \$14,350 for their team during the school year. The team hosted a charity Wiffleball Tournament with all proceeds going towards either Girls on the Run or ALS Association.
- **CRICKET:** Placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the NCCA Northeast Regional Tournament. Finished their fall season with an undefeated record. Fundraised over \$3,150 to help cover team expenses in the future. Will hope to compete at Nationals this upcoming school year.
- **CYCLING:** Finished in 8<sup>th</sup> Place out of 40 schools in the ECCC. Rider Sarah Gibertoni finished 1<sup>st</sup> overall in the Women's A Division, qualifying for Nationals. Increased their roster size by over 25%. Raised \$1,620 on Giving Day, which was a club record.



## TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

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- **EQUESTRIAN:** With over half of the team as new members this year, the Equestrian team was still able to perform at a very high level qualifying as a team for Zone finals and advancing a rider to the IHSA National Championships. With many experienced riders returning next season the team hopes to continue to build on this success.
- **FENCING:** Had numerous fencers place Top 8 at the NEIFC Tournament “The Big One”. 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Women’s Club 3-Weapon Division at the NEIFC Championships. 12<sup>th</sup> Place for Combined Teams and 4<sup>th</sup> Place for Women’s Team at USCFA National Championship. Hosted an Alumni Tournament with over 30 attendees.
- **FIGURE SKATING:** Went undefeated in regional competition and advanced to the National Championships where they once again claimed the title for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. This is now their 6<sup>th</sup> National title. Also hosted their first home competition ever and raised over \$5,000 from the effort.
- **GOLF:** A true rebuilding year for the squad coming out of COVID. The club joined the NCCGA New England Division and traveled to five tournaments. Looking forward to adding some inter-squad Ryder Cup style events to their calendar next year to enhance team camaraderie and grow their numbers.



## TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

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- **GYMNASTICS:** Traveled to the NAIGC Nationals in Milwaukee, WI where gymnast Sarah Kolaczyk finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Beam. She was the club's first medalist in five years. Doubled their roster size post-pandemic. Secured an off-campus gym facility to allow their athletes to advance their skills.
- **ICE HOCKEY (M):** Ended their season with a .500 record placing them 15<sup>th</sup> in the ACHA Division II Northeast Region. Had a record number of athletes try out for their team. A total of 94 donated to their club on Giving Day, which was a team record.
- **ICE HOCKEY (W):** Finished their season 6-10 which was good enough for 9<sup>th</sup> in the ACHA Division II Northeast Region. Casey Smith was selected as the ACHA Women's Division II Off-Ice MVP. Finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall within our program for Total Donors on Giving Day with 147.
- **JIU-JITSU:** Participated in two new competitions during the school year. Had five athletes claim medals at those competitions. Had over 40 committed athletes on their roster dedicated to advancing their martial art skills.



## TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

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- **KENDO:** Placed in 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Harvard Ryuko Taikai Kendo Tournament. Attended the UCLA Yuhikai Kendo Tournament for the first time since 2018. Fundraised a program high \$3,474 during the #TerriersTogether campaign in October and completed 3,474 haya-suburi to engage their community to donate.
- **KUNG FU:** Performed for multiple groups and clubs, both on and off campus highlighted by a performance in Chinatown during the fall. Had 20 motivated athletes on their club.
- **ROLLER HOCKEY:** Ended the school year with a 17-7-3 record highlighted by a trip to the Elite 8 at the NCRHA National Championships in Kalamazoo, MI. Finished in 4<sup>th</sup> Place out of 15 teams in the ECHRA. Fundraised \$11,100 during the school and hosted their first ever Skate-A-Thon to engage donors.
- **RUGBY (M):** Won the Beast of the East Gold Division and the Bentley 7s Tournament Did not finish out of the Top 3 in any tournament in the spring. Outside of Sailing, they raised the most money this past school bringing in over \$15,150 for their club. Look forward to hosting their club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next school year.



## TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

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- **RUGBY (W):** Finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the NWRC with a 3-2 record highlighted by a win over rival Boston College. Winner of the Cianci's and St. Michaels' 7s Tournaments in the spring. Finished Top 10 in Total Donors within our program on Giving Day with 92. They look forward to hosting their Annual Alumni Game for the first time in four years next spring.
- **SAILING:** Qualified for the Women's and Open ICSA National Championships in New Orleans, LA. Placed 15<sup>th</sup> in the country for Open Team. Had a program high Giving Day with 215 donors contributing over \$18,900 to the team. Traveled to St. Petersburg, Florida for a spring break training trip.
- **SHOTOKAN KARATE:** Participated in numerous seminars with highly ranked senseis. Had 20 athletes promoted in beginner and advanced ranks. Have adapted post-pandemic to hold a portion of their practices remotely.
- **SKI RACING:** The Women's side won their conference for the first time in history with their top two women ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> out of over 100 skiers in the conference. The future is bright for the Ski Racing team with many highly ranked racers returning next season.



## TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

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- **SNOWBOARDING:** Traveled to numerous mountains throughout the Northeast. The Men's side had finished 1<sup>st</sup> in Giant Slalom and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Slalom during the winter. Rider Rachel Zong took home 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Women's Slopestyle at their February race. Will continue to encourage their riders to compete going forward.
- **SOCCER (M):** Qualified for the SCCSL playoffs in the spring. Hosted their first Alumni Game in three years bringing over 25 athletes back to Nickerson Field. The team will be looking to revamp their roster and qualify for Regionals next fall.
- **SOCCER (W):** Finished their year with an impressive 2-3-5 record against teams in the Northeast. Hosted numerous bonding events to build team chemistry and morale after the pandemic. Had their most successful Giving Day date totaling \$1,604 from 75 donors.
- **SQUASH:** Men's side ranks 39 out of 66 teams in the country and the Women's side ranks 36 out of 42. Finished as the 6<sup>th</sup> best club team in the country at Nationals. The club plays a large majority of their schedule against varsity teams.



## TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

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- **SYNCHRONIZED SKATING:** Achieved their highest score ever at Nationals placing them 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Hosted more than 20 high school seniors for their Prospective Skaters Weekend in April – a key in-person recruitment event. Mobilized their donor base to win the Power-Hour challenge on BU Giving Day.
- **SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING:** Placed 11<sup>th</sup> overall at Nationals in Columbus, OH. Participated in the Eastern Regionals at Wheaton College. Increased their Giving Day donor total by 60%. Recruited six new athletes to their niche sport.
- **TABLE TENNIS:** Qualified for the NCTTA Table Tennis Championships in Round Rock, TX. Women's team finished in 5<sup>th</sup> Place in the country and placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the Lower New England Divisionals. Athlete Luke Zheng qualified for the Round of 32 at Nationals. Men's team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place at Lower New England Divisionals.
- **TRIATHLON:** Sent six athletes to Nationals in Hall County, GA. Had numerous Top 3 finishes from their athletes in the fall and spring. Held their first ever Bike-A-Ton, which resulted in the team fundraising over \$1,000. Increased their roster size by over 50% many of those being female athletes.





## TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

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- **ULTIMATE (M):** Qualified for Regionals for the first time in four years. Won the Jefferson Hucktastic resulting in their first tournament victory in over ten years. Placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the National recognized Huck Finn Tournament in St. Louis, MO. Raised a team-record \$3,850 on Giving Day.
- **ULTIMATE (W):** Qualified for the USA Ultimate College Championships for the first time in history. Held DAR's most successful crowdsourcing campaign raising over \$12,000 for their National's trip. Finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at Sectionals securing a spot at Regionals.
- **VOLLEYBALL (M):** Placed 9<sup>th</sup> in DIAA Gold Bracket at the NCVF Nationals in Phoenix, AZ. Finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at Regionals and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place at Interdivisionals. Raised over \$3,000 on Giving Day, which is a team record. Hosted their Alumni Tournament which brought over 25 alumni back to FitRec.
- **VOLLEYBALL (W):** Placed 1<sup>st</sup> in two tournaments and finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the NWCVL. Placed in 25<sup>th</sup> in the Silver Bracket at the NCVF Nationals in Phoenix, AZ. Attended a total of eight tournaments this school year and added six new athletes to their team. Hosted their Alumni Tournament which brought back 15 alumni to BU's campus.



# TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

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- **WATER POLO (M):** Finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the CWPA New England Region. Placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the UMASS Spring Invitational in late March. Won the “Student Lunch Rush Challenge” on Giving Day contributing their 158 donors, which was an all-time high by the team.
- **WATER POLO (W):** Finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the CWPA New England Region. Finished Top 5 in Giving Day total donors for the fifth consecutive year. Worked with the Men’s team to host their Annual Austin Brashears’ Memorial Alumni Tournament, which brought a record 80 alumni back to FitRec’s pool and raised \$2,600 for his scholarship fund.



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*“The Figure Skating team and the Club Sports program in general played a huge role in my decision to attend Boston University. I knew I wanted to continue skating competitively at whatever university I chose and during my search I found BU had the best of both worlds; rigorous academics and a competitive figure skating team. I feel privileged to have spent my time here at BU with some of the most hardworking, dedicated, and fun-loving athletes who also happen to be some of my best friends.”*

*-Hannah Laird (QST '22)*



## SPECIAL THANKS...

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The Club Sports program extends our deepest gratitude to Tim Moore, who served as the Executive Director of PERD for the last ten years. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Tim retired after over 40 years in collegiate recreation. He created opportunities for social interaction, access, diversity, learning, collaboration, and unity focused on developing a stronger sense of community through various fitness, sports, recreation, and wellness programs. Tim's passion in the field of collegiate recreation was to help and service as many students as possible. During his time at BU, he went above and beyond to advocate for our program to our campus partners and the local community. Tim was instrumental in growing the department's fundraising efforts, especially with his outreach to alumni and loyal donors. Also, under his leadership, the club sports program was

able to add five new clubs and help secure additional resources for the success of our program. Furthermore, Tim worked tirelessly to approve, adapt, and implement important health and safety protocol to allow our program to continue to function through the pandemic. We wish Tim all the best in retirement and thank him for his years of service and dedication to our program. Thank you for everything, Tim!

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*"The Kendo Club made my time at BU. When I was a freshman, the club members quickly became my main group of friends and that is still the case today. We do everything together and really think of each other as family. There were two times when I considered leaving the University, the first due to homesickness and the second due to severe academic pressure. Both times, my friends on the club were a major factor in my reason to stay."*

*-Dan Gruspier (ENG '22)*