

Building a Community

3,000-plus alums reunite and reconnect with a changing BU



By Marc Chalufour

Themes of hope, renewal, and community echoed throughout Alumni Weekend 2018 as Boston University honored distinguished alumni and opened the doors to the Dahod Family Alumni Center.

More than 3,000 alums returned to campus September 20 to 23 for Alumni Weekend reunions, receptions, award ceremonies, tours, and more.

One series of events focused on the legacy of BU's black alumni, notably Martin Luther King, Jr. (GRS'55, Hon.'59) and Howard Thurman (Hon.'67), dean of Marsh Chapel from 1953 to 1965 and the first black dean at a predominantly white US university. At the Celebration of Black Alumni reception, President Robert A. Brown welcomed alums back to campus and described some of the changes that "give us a much greater sense of com-

munity and presence" on Comm Ave. Among the changes is the relocation and expansion of the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground, from the George Sherman Union to 808 Commonwealth Avenue.

"There is no space that's more central and more visible," Brown said. "It shows the sign of the growing diversity of our student body, the importance we put today on the community of our students and staff and faculty, and the commitment we have to being this very unique residential campus in the heart of the city."

Two other investments in community are the admissions reception area in the Alan and Sherry Leventhal Center and the Dahod Family Alumni Center, which celebrated its grand opening during Alumni Weekend following a top-to-bottom renovation. Both were bustling on Saturday morning. Alumni streamed into the alumni center, long

Musa Pam (Questrom'01) snaps a photo of Patricia de la Sota (CAS'79) (left) and Mary Perry (CAS'79, GRS'80, LAW'83), BU Alumni Council president, outside Fuller's BU Pub at the Dahod Family Alumni Center.

known as the Castle, to explore the new space. Around the corner, one tour group after another emerged from the adjoining Leventhal Center, each filled with prospective students getting their first look at BU.

Ed Kazanjian, who over the years since graduating has visited the BU Pub, in the basement level of the Castle, was thrilled with the building. The Dahod Family Alumni Center includes gathering places for alums and a renovated Pub, now known as Fuller's BU Pub (*see story on page 80*). "It looks spectacular," said Kazanjian (ENG'68).

At Saturday's Best of BU Luncheon, Brown touted the strength of



Tastes of BU: Pairings with Culinary Creators was one of many events at the Dahod Family Alumni Center. BU alumni brewers, bakers, distillers, and restaurateurs provided hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and a mix of fall craft beers.

Diane Rollo (Wheelock'91) (left) and Patricia Mucci Tayco (Wheelock'78,'93) with David Chard, Wheelock dean ad interim, at a welcome reception for the newly formed Boston University Wheelock College of Education & Human Development.



President Robert A. Brown (from right), Young Alumni Award recipient Erika Ebbel Angle (MED'12), Distinguished Alumni Award recipients Marylou Sudders (CAS'76, SSW'78), Binoy K. Singh (ENG'89), and Bill Brooks (Questrom'86), and Mary Perry (CAS'79, GRS'80, LAW'83), BU Alumni Council president, at the Best of BU Luncheon.



At Fuller's BU Pub: Patrick Ayer (Questrom'18, Sargent'17) (from left), Kenneth Elmore (Wheelock'87), associate provost and dean of students, Rachel Markell (CAS'17, Sargent'17), Rhett, Allison Ramsey (ENG'17), and Marissa Choy (COM'17).

FACING PAGE: CYDNEY SCOTT; THIS PAGE: NATASHA MOUTACHE (BOTTOM LEFT), CHRIS MCINTOSH (TOP RIGHT), CYDNEY SCOTT (2)

the University, from the credentials of the 3,620 students in the Class of 2022 to the engagement of alumni. He also spoke of BU's recent merger with Wheelock College, forming Boston University Wheelock College of Education & Human Development. "That merger marks a renewal of our commitment to K through 12 education, and educating teachers for public education, which I believe is one of the most important things we can do for the future of this country."

Following his remarks, three alums were presented with Distinguished

Alumni Awards, the highest honor bestowed by the BU Alumni Association: Binoy K. Singh (ENG'89), associate chief of cardiovascular medicine at Northwell Health–Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City and founder of the Imagineering Lab at the College of Engineering; Marylou Sudders (CAS'76, SSW'78), Massachusetts secretary of health and human services; and Bill Brooks (Questrom'86), a former NFL player, sports analyst, consultant, and active volunteer in his community. Erika Ebbel Angle (MED'12), founder of Science from Scientists and CEO and

cofounder of Ixcela, received the 2018 Young Alumni Award.

Time and again the theme of community surfaced as alumni reflected on BU's influence. "I came to BU in 1964, and it was the best decision I ever made," said Lawrence Carter (STH'68,'70,'79), dean of the Martin Luther King, Jr., International Chapel at Morehouse College, who was invited to deliver Sunday's interdenominational service at Marsh Chapel. The faculty at STH was brilliant, he said. "I had so much fun, I stayed for two more degrees. I will always love this place."