

Trustee Richard Shipley's Gift Creates Beverly A. Brown Professorship

Second endowed multidisciplinary chair for global health

IN NOVEMBER 2012, Beverly A. Brown outlined the recent accomplishments and goals of the Center for Global Health & Development (CGHD) at a meeting of the BU Board of Trustees. She has held the unpaid position of director of development at the CGHD since 2010.

The public health advocate arrived with a PowerPoint presentation, but left with a professorship in her name, thanks to a \$4 million gift from trustee Richard Shipley (SMG'68, GSM'72). The idea, it turns out, had been percolating among the trustees, who started discussions about establishing a chair in her honor last fall. But it came as a surprise to Brown, who says that Shipley "just blurted it out." And while her husband, University President Robert A. Brown, didn't know about Shipley's intent either, she says, everyone else was in the loop.

"Beverly has been deeply involved with the University, and in my opinion, she is underacknowledged, probably underappreciated, and certainly underpaid, because she takes no salary," says Shipley, a philanthropist and founder and managing director of the private equity firm Shiprock Capital. "We thought, wouldn't it be nice to create a chair in her name."

Brown says she is "thrilled I could be a catalyst for a large gift," and excited by the opportunity to hire someone whose research will be directed toward eliminating public health disparities in urban areas, where 50 percent of the world's population lives. Improving urban health is a major goal of researchers



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A \$4 million gift from University trustee Richard Shipley (SMG'68, GSM'72) will support a professorship in urban global health, named for Beverly A. Brown, development director of the Center for Global Health & Development and wife of University President Robert A. Brown.

at the CGHD, which launched a global urban health initiative in fall 2011 to meet the overwhelming challenges and needs of the swiftly expanding ranks of the world's urban poor.

In her role as chief fundraiser for the CGHD and a member of its advisory council, Brown is immersed in numerous collaborations with both for-profit and nonprofit organizations in the United States and abroad. She also devotes about half her time to trumpeting the Campaign for Boston University, the University's first comprehensive fundraising campaign, which has raised more than \$510 million; she is also involved in BU's Technology Development Office.

A search committee will fill the endowed chair, which will be called the Beverly A. Brown Professorship for the Improvement of Urban Health.

The professorship is the second major endowed multidisciplinary chair devoted to improving global health research and treatment in the past year. In July 2012, the Robert and Jeanne Knox Foundation gave BU \$2.5 million to create a professorship named for Board of Trustees chair Robert Knox (CAS'74, GSM'75). Jonathon Simon, CGHD director and a School of Public Health professor and chair of international health, is the inaugural Robert A. Knox Professor. Simon has spent a quarter-century battling childhood illnesses and death in the developing world.

Brown believes that gifts such as these set a glowing example of the future BU envisions. "It's important for people to see that people are stepping up to the campaign challenge," she says. "I'm ecstatic." ss