



The BU undergraduate academic experience is not only a curriculum completed in classrooms, labs, and libraries. It is a journey enriched by learning that is unique, personal, and extracurricular—that is, outside the classroom. How can we promote this kind of learning and the benefits it provides? One significant way is through the creation of an endowed **Virginia Sapiro Academic Enhancement Fund**, named in honor of CAS's departing dean.

The College of Arts & Sciences is home to 7,000 undergraduate students, but it figures in the lives of virtually every Boston University undergraduate, through courses spanning the humanities and the social, natural, and computational sciences. The faculty of many of these courses have managed to add enrichment opportunities to their lesson plans, with the help of the College's existing, current-use academic enhancement fund. The endowed Sapiro Fund will ensure that those resources are available in perpetuity to enrich the CAS experience.

Enriching the CAS education

By defraying the costs of excursions into and beyond our city, the Sapiro Fund will advance the goals of CAS courses, honor Dean Sapiro's belief in the power of experiential learning, and add depth to our students' academic knowledge through active, extra-classroom experiences. In the past, such excursions have included trips to the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, the Tenement Museum in New York City, and even a spring break trip that crisscrossed south-central Florida to study amphibians and reptiles.

The Sapiro fund will also support class trips to cultural performances, guided visits to local exhibits and institutions, and encounters—formal and informal—with distinguished scholars. In some cases, students themselves will play an active role in designing and carrying out Sapiro Fund-sponsored events.

Providing context, experience, and interaction

The greater Boston area offers rich cultural ground for our community; enrichment funding allows our students and faculty to use it to their fullest advantage.

Some recent examples:

- English Professor Hunt Howell's **Representing Boston** (English 128) used enhancement funding in 2014 to support guided tours of Fenway Park and the Freedom Trail, giving students a "heightened sense of the presence of the past in Boston."
- Associate Professor of Sociology Japonica Brown-Saracino used funds for visits to Boston's West End, Beacon Hill, and the North End, allowing students in her fall **Boston's People** (Sociology 306) course to engage with environments relevant to or suggestive of the texts they were reading.
- In Erin Murphy's autumn 2014 **Readings in Shakespeare** (English 163), a mix of students from various BU colleges and majors attended a Shakespeare's Globe touring production of "King Lear," seeing firsthand the realities of staging a classical play.

- Through a canoe trip on the Charles River and a visit to Woburn (a community that has suffered major industrial pollution), English-speaking and English-as-a-Second-Language students in Kimberly Shuckra Gomez and Jason Prentice's course **Pollution Where We Live** (Writing 100) learned how to collect data first-hand, built their cross-cultural teamwork skills, and shared cultural reflections on their observations.
- Jeremy DeSilva took his fall 2014 **Primate Biomechanics** (Anthropology 339) students to the "Body Worlds Vital" exhibition at Faneuil Hall in Boston, where they "learned the musculoskeletal system from real, posed human bodies on display...in a much more meaningful fashion" than by "rote memorization."

These and dozens of other examples illustrate how our faculty are now using enhancement funds to give BU students the kind of enrichment that makes learning so meaningful.

Your support of the *endowed* **Virginia Sapiro Academic Enhancement Fund** will ensure the formalization and continuation of CAS's enrichment funding so that future generations of BU students and their faculty will have opportunities to experience and absorb experiences in Boston, New England, and beyond as a vital corollary to their classroom curricula.



To mail your gift, please send a check made out to **Trustees of Boston University** to:

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For questions about other ways to make your gift, please contact Steve Kean at skean@bu.edu or **617-358-1214**.