

Class of 1997 Reunion Giving

Our 25th Reunion is a defining moment for our Class, giving us the opportunity to create a lasting legacy through our united financial contributions as we reflect on what Williams has meant to us. Our donations will be focused on two important areas:

1. Alumni Fund: \$1.25 million goal

The Alumni Fund supports the day-to-day operations of the college. Generations of alumni who preceded us made our time at Williams possible; now it is our turn to support the students of today and tomorrow, ensuring that the best and brightest students have access to this world-class education regardless of their ability to pay.

Donors may make unrestricted gifts, which will be used to support the college's highest priorities, or they may designate gifts toward specific initiatives such as: financial aid, faculty excellence, equity and inclusion, sustainability, the arts, student life, or athletics (even to a specific team).

2. Class of 1997 Fund for Data Science and Digital Humanities: \$1.25 million goal

Since our founding, the Williams community has constantly changed and grown. Each generation advances the work of those who came before them to create, sustain, and support the diverse community that makes up Williams today.





We live in a digital and connected world that was practically unimaginable to us in 1997. Data is abundant—every minute personal, biological, geographic, meteorologic, technological, economic, psycho-social and other types of data are captured, stored and analyzed. We are also increasingly able to digitize, organize and analyze historical data. How we interpret all this data and apply those findings surfaces issues around data access, privacy and ethical use.

The college’s strategic planning process identified a strong interest in increasing Williams’ emphasis on technology—a digital liberal arts focus as a filter through which students approach all fields and modes of study that reflects the importance of data, while acknowledging the benefits and potential pitfalls. This includes developing expertise with new tools, using data to address important questions across the curriculum, and fostering students’ critical perspective so they will better understand the social, economic, ethical and psychological dimensions of technological change.

Building on existing strengths in terms of student interest, course offerings, faculty scholarship and interdisciplinary potential, **The Class of ’97 Fund for Data Science and Digital Humanities** could:

- Fund a new program in data science and digital humanities, teaching data-driven approaches across the arts, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences (offering students the option to major or gain a concentration in the field);
- Support use of data by students and faculty to do research around pressing contemporary challenges;
- Promote the use of data and digital technology in scholarship and communication;
- Encourage the ethical use of technology and data;

- Create new pathways through the curriculum that use data science techniques to address issues in public health, sustainability, the climate crisis and structural racism, among others; and
- Expand the impact beyond higher education by bringing in speakers and other experts to campus, and extending opportunities for applying learning beyond Williams including internships and special projects.

The ability to work with, understand and interpret data has never been more important than it is today and will continue to grow. Technological experience and knowledge of data science is critical to all areas of study at Williams and will smooth the path to success for future generations of Ephs no matter where their careers take them.

How You Can Help

Please help by supporting this class initiative in honor of our 25th Reunion and by making an Alumni Fund gift and a gift to the Class of ’97 Fund when you hear from a classmate in the coming months.

This is a chance to reconnect with what we value most about Williams. It also gives us an opportunity to leave a legacy that helps Williams graduate the next generation of leaders who will have a positive impact on the world.

We can achieve this worthy goal only with your help. Please respond generously when called upon by your classmates.

Your 1997 Leadership Committee Chairs & Head Agents:

Susan Costanzo

Chris Sweeney

Isaac Pesin

Eric Watson