September 20, 2022

Dear Members of the Class of 1974:

On June 6-9, 2024, we’ll celebrate our 50th Williams Reunion. We hope that many members of our Class will return to the campus to reconnect for a weekend of fun and camaraderie.

At two landmark moments in our post-college years, Williams looks to alumni classes for significant gifts – the 25th and 50th Reunions. With that in mind, a devoted team of 30 classmates spent the past year researching and reflecting on possibilities for our 50th Reunion gift, including digging into the impact of our 25th Reunion gift and exploring current Williams initiatives and needs.

We’re very pleased to say that our 50th Reunion Gift Purpose Committee has chosen an endowment gift that we believe honors our Williams experience while helping future generations of students take full advantage of the extraordinary opportunities the college has to offer: The Class of 1974 Student Opportunity Fund.

This fund will enhance the Williams student experience through unrestricted support of endowed internships, fellowships, and scholarships. In so doing, we’ll expand upon our wildly successful 25th Reunion Fund, which embodied a similar mission and has supported an ever-expanding scope of student interests and pursuits. With your help, we’ll be able to double down on our prior investment and further enrich students’ individual journeys through Williams in dynamic and meaningful ways.

Our fund’s goals align beautifully with the college’s recently published Strategic Plan in three key areas: an emphasis on experiential learning, an expanded commitment to cross-disciplinary educational and creative experiences, and an augmentation of the college’s recently established, pioneering all-grant financial aid plan.

During the gift exploration process, we were regularly reminded that Williams remains intensely student-focused. We’re thrilled that The Class of 1974 Student Opportunity Fund will help sustain this essential element of a Williams education. We hope that every member of our Class will contribute to this special class gift.
We’ve attached a more detailed statement of the reunion gift purpose and its intended uses, along with a description of the process the committee followed and additional background about the gift purpose.

Important support for the college is also provided annually through the Alumni Fund. We hope that classmates will continue to support the college through this form of unrestricted giving. At the same time, we recognize that some classmates may wish to focus their reunion donations on individually designated gifts for other uses by the college, and we welcome the opportunity to engage you in those discussions. We’d also like to note that reunion contributions may take many forms, including cash gifts, appreciated stock, tangible property (such as land or artworks), and deferred gifts made through will bequests, trusts and other charitable gift options.

In the coming months, we look forward to sharing more about The Class of 1974 Student Opportunity Fund and how you can help “pay it forward” to future generations of Ephs by supporting our 50th Reunion gift.

Sincerely,

Bob, Fran & Rich
Co-Chairs,
The Class of 1974 50th Reunion Gift Purpose Committee

THE CLASS OF 1974 50TH REUNION GIFT PURPOSE COMMITTEE

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