

# Class of 1999 25th 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 in two important ways:

## **1. Alumni Fund**

The Alumni Fund supports the annual operations of the college, including the college's highest priorities. 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.

Each year the 25th Reunion class plays a key role in the Alumni Fund, led by leadership donors making annual gifts of \$2,500 or more. During our 20th Reunion, we focused our efforts on increasing the number of classmates giving at or above that level, especially the women in our class, and you answered the call! By our reunion weekend twenty-five of you made gifts at that level, including a whopping seventeen women! Now for our 25th Reunion, we're hoping to do even more to support the Alumni Fund at leadership levels. Please consider being a leadership donor by making a gift of \$2,500 or more to the Alumni Fund this year. Last year twenty-six classmates made leadership gifts (thirteen women and thirteen men). Can we double that to fifty leadership donors this year? Please join us if you are able to!

## **2. Financial Aid in Support of True Affordability**

Williams has a long history of financial aid leadership. The College is among the small set of schools that do not consider financial circumstances when admitting U.S. applicants (known as "need blind" admission). Over the past two decades Williams has gone beyond need blind to need seeking, actively identifying and recruiting exceptional students who cannot afford to



pay the cost of attendance. More than 50% of Williams students receive some financial aid, with 25% receiving full funding. Williams has also made other groundbreaking changes to the financial aid program with the goal of eliminating all barriers for aided students to participate fully in campus life. The most recent step toward making Williams truly affordable is the elimination of loans and required campus and summer jobs from all financial aid packages, replacing them with equivalent grant funds dollar for dollar. Previous initiatives provided free textbooks and course materials, health insurance, funding for travel courses and internships, and more. These changes have greatly increased the College's financial accessibility, giving all Williams students the same freedom to pursue opportunities on and off campus.

The Class of 1999 Scholarship will support a specific segment of students receiving financial aid: non-traditional students which includes military veterans and community college transfers. These students are incredibly impactful to the student body and bring their real-world perspectives, which diversify and deepen conversation and interactions in classrooms and across campus. Non-traditional students typically require more substantial financial aid given the logistics of their family circumstances, often bringing spouses and families with them to Williams.

Financial aid is a generational responsibility at Williams. Each generation that has come before has added to the resources of those who will come to Williams in the future. Let us keep that legacy alive and continue to pay it forward. Our gift in honor of the Class of 1999 will endow financial aid for future generations of Ephs.

### 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 1999 Scholarship 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 ensures the success of future Ephs and 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 1999 Leadership Committee Chairs and Head Agents:

Joe Kauffman

Leigh Winter Martin

Jennifer Hurley

Jonathan Pak

“I’m here because of the college’s intense academic rigor, genuine spirit of collaboration, and the opportunity for both breadth and depth in my studies.”

**JOSEPH GRILLO '24**



“[Student veterans] deeply contribute to the richness of our community. We know that our differences provide opportunities for growth and connection, and those opportunities are only strengthened when student veterans join our community.”

**ALEX DIADDEZIO '11,**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
OF ADMISSION