



Affording Opportunity

SCHOLARSHIPS IMPACT FUND

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

WILLIAM & MARY

W&M AFFORDING OPPORTUNITY

Gifts to the Scholarships Impact Fund are one of the most effective ways to make a difference in the lives of students today. This flexible, immediate-use fund allows the university to boost financial aid packages each year and reduce the debt load students carry. Scholarships afford many students the opportunity to attend William & Mary.

1st

W&M was recognized by The New York Times as one of the nation's leading colleges and universities committed to access and affordability and the No. 1 public university in Virginia.

SCHOLARSHIPS AFFORD OPPORTUNITIES

- To **pursue passion** without burden
- To empower the **best and brightest** from any background
- To ensure **great minds** meet
- To compete for **exceptional talent**
- To build a **vibrant community** of diverse perspectives
- To fuel our **legacy of leadership**

Undergraduate Scholarships Goal

\$225M

Through *For the Bold*, we have raised more than \$117 million of the \$225 million goal for undergraduate scholarships.

Bold Impact

NEARLY

1,000

exceptional students received scholarships support to attend W&M in the past academic year, thanks to private support.

THERE WAS A

25%

increase in number of donors who gave to the Scholarships Impact Fund on One Tribe One Day in 2018 from 2017.

Undergraduates have received more than

\$43 million

in privately funded scholarships since 2011.

This year through the Scholarships Impact Fund

THERE ARE

64

students receiving support from the Scholarships Impact Fund in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Recipients were provided median support of

\$10,000

NEARLY

\$600,000

was raised in fiscal year 2018 to afford great opportunities to students.

To fuel our legacy of leadership

Ferdinand
Makabata

'20

So I can work in finance and assist
soldiers with retirement planning.



**“I felt I had a duty and
obligation to give
back to the country
that changed my life
for the better.”**

FOR MANY AMERICANS, childhood conjures up images of innocence and carefree play. Growing up in the Philippines, Ferdinand “Poe” Makabata ’20 had a far different experience.

His family was impoverished, a circumstance made far worse by his parents’ separation when he was two years old. From that point, he lived with an aunt in the slums of Manila while his mother worked as a live-in maid elsewhere in the city. His father was completely out of the picture. Resources were so tight that he had to sell rice cakes on the streets just to ensure he had lunch money for school.

Things began to look up for Poe when his mother met and married a U.S. naval officer. She was able to immigrate to the U.S. in the late 1980s, and Poe followed in 1992. After years of constant exposure to hazardous waste and fumes and hunger so intense that it sometimes kept him awake at night, he was suddenly breathing clean

air and enjoying access to a refrigerator stocked with fresh food.

“It was a definite culture shock when I first arrived in the U.S.,” he remembers. “It was like night and day. For the first week, I felt like I was in heaven.”

School was a struggle at first due to the language barrier, however Poe picked up English quickly thanks to his favorite television program, “The Fresh Prince of Bel Air.” Having cleared this hurdle, he quickly became a model student.

Upon graduation from high school, he

considered college, but ultimately decided to join the military, a path that seemed even more exigent in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Poe said, “I’ve always been appreciative of the opportunities that have come my way, and I wanted to fight for this country, so I signed up.”

He joined the U.S. Air Force and went to basic training in December 2001. For 14 years, he served as an independent duty medic, a position that includes all manner of medical support, from nurse and lab technician to public health officer. He was stationed all over the world and at one point, even served as a member of President Obama’s medical coverage team. However, his experiences took a toll



“Thank you for entrusting W&M with your resources to further advance my education. Words can’t express the gratitude I feel knowing someone is out there working on my behalf to give me a bright future.”

ISAAC DAVIS | 2020
Film and Media Studies Major



“College is hard enough as it is without having to worry about the financials. This scholarship allows me to pursue my passions and find my way in the world without that added pressure. Thank you for providing that and thank you for allowing me to be a student first. Going to school means the world to me.”

PRESTON MULFORD | 2021
Physics Major



“Because of your generosity, you have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school-learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.”

HABABO JIMA | 2020
Economics Major



“Thank you so much for your contribution, which made it possible for us to attend this school. We are the first in our family to attend a four-year university in the United States and we are so thankful that we can make our family proud because of your contribution.”

TIFFANY AND KRISTINE TSENG | 2020
Computer Science Majors

on him and, after receiving a post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) diagnosis, he was medically retired in 2015.

After leaving the Air Force, Poe’s thoughts immediately turned to college. Living in Hampton, Virginia, with his wife and two small daughters, he earned an associate’s degree from Thomas Nelson Community College in 2017 before transferring to William & Mary. Although he was excited at the prospect of returning to school, his PTSD also made him anxious about re-entering the classroom.

“I’m thankful for the assistance that William & Mary provided, especially Student Accessibility Services for the generous accommodations,” he said. “I thank them, along with my

professors and my family, for helping me regain my confidence.”

Through a combination of the G.I. Bill and private donations made to William & Mary’s Scholarships Impact Fund, Poe has truly made the university his home away from home. He is deeply involved in extra-curricular activities at the business school, including the Investment Club, the Finance Club and the Financial Modeling Club, and he plans to join the Chess Club and the Philosophy Club this spring.

He hopes to graduate in 2020 with a dual major in philosophy and finance, with a concentration in accounting. His goal is to parlay his degree into a job with an investment

firm, where he would like to focus on working with military personnel on financial planning and increasing their wealth for retirement. Overall, he couldn’t be more thrilled with all the opportunities that are coming his way.

“I did not even know I was going to get a scholarship when I decided to attend William & Mary — I wanted to attend because I knew it was an excellent school with a great reputation,” he said. “The Scholarships Impact Fund has allowed me to focus on my education without having to worry about my financial stability, and I am grateful.”

Scholarships Impact Fund Recipients By the Numbers

Total Student Recipients in FY18-19	64
Median Award Given	\$10,000
Total Donors in FY18	1,826
Median Gift Given	\$50
First-Generation College Students	28%
Pell Grant Eligible	22%
Enrolled as Freshmen	76%
Transferred from Community College or Another Four-Year Institution	24%
Average High School GPA of Enrolling Freshmen*	4.26
Average SAT Score of Enrolling Freshmen*	1340
Ranked in the Top 10% of their Class*	86%

* Consistent with averages for all incoming students.

Benefits to you:

Gifts of all sizes to the Scholarships Impact Fund are welcome and all donors will receive special updates on student recipients, including an annual Scholarships Impact Fund report highlighting the progress of our fundraising efforts.

Donors who have given **\$2,000 or more** to the Scholarships Impact Fund will receive an invitation to the annual Scholarships Luncheon during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend and the opportunity to meet one of William & Mary’s many remarkable scholarship recipients.

For more information about scholarships, please contact **Suzie Armstrong**, senior director of development for scholarships and special projects, at smarmstrong@wm.edu or (757) 221-7647.



**The Scholarships Impact Fund
has allowed me to focus on my education
without having to worry about my
financial stability, and I am grateful.**

**Ferdinand Makabata
Class of 2020**