

Affording Opportunity

SCHOLARSHIPS IMPACT FUND

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 amount of debt students carry to afford the opportunity to attend William & Mary.

1st

W&M was recently 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 \$105 million of the \$225 million goal for undergraduate scholarships.

Bold Impact

NEARLY

6,000

exceptional students have received scholarship support to attend W&M since 2011, thanks to private support.

THERE HAS BEEN A

20%

increase in Pell-eligible freshmen and transfer students as of fall 2017.

Pell Grants are need-based, federal direct grants used to offset the costs of higher education and are one measure used informally to determine how effectively a school is serving a socio-economically diverse population.

\$36 million

Undergraduates have received more than \$36 million in privately funded scholarships, through endowment returns and direct cash gifts since 2011.

This year through the Scholarships Impact Fund

THERE ARE

55

students receiving support from the Scholarships Impact Fund in the 2017-18 academic year.

Recipients were provided median support of

\$25,341

MORE THAN

\$1 million

was raised in fiscal year 2017 to afford great opportunities to students.

To pursue passion without burden



So I can realize my dream
of leading a tech giant.

Yaw
Ofori-Addae

'21



Shortly before
graduating from
high school in
2017, Yaw enjoyed
a trip to Ghana.

IT WAS NO TYPICAL VACATION — he was there to visit his mother, sister and extended family. It was the first time he had seen his mother in nearly four years.

His dad moved to the United States from Ghana more than 12 years ago, hoping to find more occupational and educational opportunities for the family. Yaw, along with his two older sisters, followed in 2014. The family settled in Woodbridge, Va., and were set on making their American dream come true.

Yaw went to Freedom High School in Woodbridge, where he experienced complete culture shock. At that school he got to choose his classes, whereas in Ghana he had to take an exam and the results determined which school he could attend. He was amazed by the amount of technology in the American classrooms, but also surprised to find out that Ghanaian classes were more challenging. As a result, he quickly proved himself one of the top students in his class.

His favorite teacher, Tara McGuire Cassens '13, M.A.Ed. '14, who taught AP U.S. History, was a proud William & Mary grad who talked about the university all the time. Yaw was impressed when she told him that Thomas Jefferson had matriculated there, and loved the idea of attending the same school as one of the nation's Founding Fathers. His decision to apply was solidified when a group of recent Freedom High graduates came back to speak to seniors. Jeaneth Reyes '20, the school's 2016 salutatorian, caught his attention. She gushed about her freshman experience at William & Mary, and Yaw knew it was the place for him.

His father was not so easily convinced. By the time Yaw applied, his two older sisters were already in college, and his dad, already working full-time for Volunteers of America, was having to drive for Uber on the weekends to support his family. He didn't want Yaw moving too far away and also wanted to avoid the expensive cost of living on campus.



“Your contributions assure that William & Mary students are able to achieve even greater future progress for this nation and humankind as a whole. For this, I thank you — know that your generosity will not be taken for granted.”

FERDINAND MAKABATA | 2020

Double major in Philosophy and Finance



“I would not be able to pursue my academic dreams without this help and I am truly grateful.”

EMILY HAYS | 2019

Psychology major and Environmental Science and Policy minor



“I’m proud to be a part of the William & Mary family because it’s a magnificent feeling to be supported by your peers and professors. To say that I’m able to thrive here in this rigorous academic setting and that I will take the knowledge I receive here with me out into the world is something that gives me great pride.”

MATTIE ROY | 2020

Double major in Elementary Education and Sociology

Yaw eventually convinced him that William & Mary was the right place for him. He was interested in computer science and data informatics, which were strong at the school. He was also close enough to come home easily and, crucially, the scholarships support he received from William & Mary was far better than what was offered from other schools to which he applied. Once his father did some research and realized that Yaw would be part of a small and diverse community, he relented and the rest is history.

Now that he’s on campus, Yaw still seems both elated and disbelieving that he realized his dream. In addition to his course load this semester, he also joined a plethora of clubs and activities. He plays intramural soccer, belongs to the Robotics Club, and is excited to try men’s volleyball

and swing dancing. More than the activities, he loves the camaraderie he’s found at William & Mary.

“Every day I have conversations with people about things that I never could have talked about before,” he said. “There are so many people here who are just like me, who get my jokes and are interested in the same things.”

Despite his incredibly social nature, Yaw is making sure to focus on his studies. Although his favorite course so far was Introduction to Religion (or as the students call it, “History of God”), he is planning on majoring in computer science and minoring in data science and dreams of becoming a software developer or engineer. He looks forward to the networking opportunities available to him, and hopes to work for one of the leading tech giants, such as Google.

Through it all, Yaw is cognizant of all that was required to get him to William & Mary, from his family’s move from Ghana and his father’s work ethic to his own personal sacrifices — he probably will not see his mother again until he graduates. Most of all, he is grateful for the scholarships that are funding his tuition. Thanks to the Scholarships Impact Fund, an immediate-use fund that allows the university to provide scholarships for students, Yaw did not have to choose education over his family’s financial well-being. For all those who have invested in his education, he has a special message:

“Thank you for doing what you’re doing. You have afforded me, and other kids who come from low-income backgrounds, the opportunity to come to a prestigious university. Because of you, I have found my Tribe.”

Scholarships Impact Fund Recipients By the Numbers

Total Recipients	55
Median Award Given	\$25,341
First-Generation College Students	40%
Pell Grant Eligible	73%
Enrolled as Freshmen	56%
Transferred from Community College or Another Four-Year Institution	44%
Average High School GPA of Enrolling Freshmen*	4.2
Average SAT Score of Enrolling Freshmen*	1340

* 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 scholarships recipients.



“

Thank you for doing
what you're doing.

You have afforded me, and other
kids who come from low-income
backgrounds, the opportunity to come
to a prestigious university.

Because of you,
I have found my Tribe.

”

Yaw Ofori-Addae
Class of 2021