There is a certain timeless quality to a Williams education — the small classes, individual instruction — and a liberal arts education really teaches students to think. Those intensive classes, with so much emphasis on writing, produced skills that I use in all aspects of my work.

— Ted Ruger ‘90

Associate Professor of Law, Washington University in St. Louis

I supervise 14 people and am in charge of the midnight to 6 a.m. shift. One of the hardest things that police officers ever do is domestics, going into someone’s home when there is a problem. It’s a challenging situation. You succeed by being decisive and communicating well. My Williams education is there every time.

— Michael Wynn ‘93

Sergeant, Pittsfield, MA, Police Department

It took me 20 years to use my Williams art history major. I’d held various high-tech jobs and was ready for something new. Laurie Thomsen ‘79 said, “What about art?” That was it. I looked at some space in Williamstown on a Sunday, made an offer on Monday, got Laurie as a partner on Tuesday, and I became a gallery owner. Williams gives its graduates confidence — confidence that stays with them.

— Jo Silipo ‘79

Owner of The Harrison Gallery, Williamstown

Thanks to generations of alumni who believe that Williams should make a difference, the Alumni Fund has helped create the best undergraduate education in the country. Now alumni will help make that education even better.

Williams plans to expand its signature tutorial program, increase instruction in writing as well as quantitative and formal reasoning, and bring an interdisciplinary approach to more classes while encouraging more active learning.

The College is also improving the housing system to encourage greater interaction among students, and broadening its commitment to financial aid for students who could not attend Williams without it. We will build a state-of-the-art theatre and dance complex, create a vibrant student center, and link a renovated Stetson Hall to an improved Sawyer Library.

Gifts to the Alumni Fund years ago helped pay for the experience we gained at Williams. Now it’s our turn. If you believe that your Williams education helps you make a difference, please join your classmates in making a difference with a gift.

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“We need to think of Williams as an institution that is capable of being more than it has been so far.”

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Guy Verney '54  P '77
Retired in 1989 as vice-president of Individual Reinsurance Operations at CIGNA, Guilford, CT

“What I learned at Williams, and what people still have the opportunity to learn at Williams, is personal growth and development. As a sophomore, I became the treasurer of my fraternity. The records were in bad shape, and I had no experience in this area. I’d never even had a checkbook. Frankie Thoms, the athletic director, taught me bookkeeping and management, and I have used the lessons I learned from him ever since.”

Williams generates a steady stream of informed and effective citizens — men and women who use their Williams education every day to make a difference.

Jim Poulson '87
Director of Business Services, Northfield Mount Hermon School

“A Williams education demands and fosters good problem-solving abilities as well as communication skills. Those come in handy every day in operating an independent school where people have a variety of viewpoints.”

Liz Gardner '87
Full-time mother of two and community volunteer

“Williams instills the spirit of wanting to shape your own community — seeing something that needs to be done, reaching out to others, and bringing people together. That’s when the good things happen.”

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