

WELLESLEY COLLEGE  
**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

Paula A. Johnson

November 2018

Dear Mrs. Brigham,

Over the summer, I re-watched the movie *Wonder Woman* with my 17-year-old daughter—and was reminded once again of its inspiring parallels with Wellesley.

The future Wonder Woman comes of age on the island of Themyscira, a community of women set apart from the larger world. It's based on shared values, intergenerational support, and respect. There, the young Diana grows powerful. There, she gains the strength to run towards, not away from, danger—to fight for her deepest values in service to humanity.

This is what I see every day at Wellesley. And as I watch our students grow into the fullness of their power and potential, I cannot help but feel optimistic about what our future holds.

Each one of you has played a role in this. You, our alumnae, are at the heart of who we are and who we are becoming. Thanks to you, we are making major strides on a number of fronts, all geared to helping students flourish both now and in the future. To name just a few of our priorities:

- We are creating a new science landscape, renovating and expanding our science center in ways that will allow us to powerfully reimagine science education.
- We continue to expand our focus on health and wellness, a necessary complement to the rigorous academic programs for which Wellesley is so rightly celebrated.
- We are exploring innovative ways to create a more inclusive and equitable campus experience everywhere, from our core academic programs to residential life.
- We are continuing to focus on the resoundingly successful Wellesley College Career Education, the groundbreaking model that has been embraced by our students and admired by our peers.
- And we are ramping up campus sustainability efforts, moving towards our goal of carbon neutrality.

The world needs Wellesley women as never before. And we aren't the only ones who realize this: Applications have soared by 17 percent each of the past two years, a leap far surpassing that of other top schools. All of us share a profound appreciation for what Wellesley offers—a combination of fierce challenge and equally fierce support.

At this moment of unique global complexity, I write in hopes that you will support today's students as they develop a belief in themselves and in the power of women to change the world. With your help, Wellesley—like Themyscira—will equip women to both serve and lead for generations to come.

With deepest gratitude,



Paula A. Johnson  
*President*

