Investing in Women

Your Impact from
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019
A Note of Thanks

On behalf of the entire Wellesley community, I would like to thank you for your generous support of the College, our students, and our faculty.

Your support empowers the next generation of Wellesley women with the skills and perspectives they need to make a difference in the world. Without you, we wouldn’t be able to provide compelling academic programs, innovative research opportunities, or transformative internships. You are giving the priceless gifts of education and opportunity, and for that I cannot thank you enough.

Your investment in Wellesley also allows us to continue to attract and retain the best and brightest faculty. Wellesley’s scholar-teachers expand the boundaries of human knowledge and publish their research in the finest journals and with the leading presses. Through their passion for their professional fields, Wellesley faculty inspire their students’ intellectual ambitions and open up new worlds to be explored.

I hope this report demonstrates the impact you have had on the College, and how investing in the endowment ensures a strong foundation for Wellesley for years to come. Thank you for being an integral part of our mission to educate the next generation of women leaders.

Andy Shennan
Provost and Lia Gelin Poorvu ’56 Dean of the College

Making a Difference through Life Experiences

Connecting classroom learning to real-world application, internships are an integral part of the Wellesley student experience. More than 25 percent of students participate in a Wellesley-funded internship during their four years. In FY18, 488 students applied for a Wellesley-funded internship. These opportunities allow students to experience the field in which they intend to work, or explore an entirely new path. In short, they are the starting point of a student’s journey to discover a purposeful and engaging career.
Academic Excellence

Wellesley’s rigorous and dynamic academic programs allow students to pursue courses of study that not only challenge and expand their thinking but also captivate their attention and focus. With an average class size of 17 to 20 students and an abundance of research opportunities available, students have unparalleled access to professors for guidance and collaboration. Professors are incredibly committed to supporting students and are actively involved in their lives. This dynamic engagement is a core component of our transformational learning environment.

Majors with the most graduates in the class of 2018

1. Economics (97)
2. Computer Science (56)
3. Political Science (55)
4. Biological Sciences (45)
5. Psychology (42)

7:1
Student to faculty ratio

Snapshot: A Glimpse into a Recently Added Course

Intersections of Technology, Social Justice, and Conflict Taught by Catia Confortini, peace and justice studies, and Amy Banzaert, engineering

This course explores the intersections between social justice, conflict, and engineering using an interdisciplinary, hands-on, case study approach. Students learn about four technologies (drones, cell phones, cookstoves, and water pumps) and explore the embodied engineering concepts and the ethical and political implications of using them.
Wesley Andrés Watters
Diana Chapman Walsh
Assistant Professor of Astronomy

Professor Watters not only teaches students the science of rockets and how to investigate the slopes of sand dune faces on Mars, he teaches resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge; teamwork; and how to recognize the breadth of their capabilities.

He works alongside his students, co-authoring major papers with them and preparing them to take on any challenge, from researching Martian meteorite impact craters to landing internships at places like NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. His courses “merge mathematics, physics, engineering, astronomy, geology, climatology, computer programming, design, and fabrication into one intense course [where] everyone can be a scientist with a valuable skillset to offer,” one student summarized.

Paul MacDonald
Associate professor of political science

Professor MacDonald’s course topics range from leadership, to military strategy, to empires and imperialism, but, according to students, they share a common result: His classes make them better thinkers and communicators, stronger logicians and debaters, and savvier consumers of information.

Through a rich and rigorous study of political science, Professor MacDonald’s courses engage students with the world and inspire them to pursue a career path that sorely needs more women in its ranks. “His impact on my intellectual development is so strong that I consider him the major reason I plan, and have the confidence, to pursue a career in international security,” said one student, echoing many of her peers.

Jenny Olivia Johnson
Associate professor of music

A cutting-edge composer, sound artist, and music scholar, Professor Johnson persuades students to reconsider what music and art can be and to “dismantle traditionalist music concepts ingrained into us.” As many of her students attest, Professor Johnson’s teaching reaches well beyond the classroom to ensure that her students, no matter their technical background, have the tools, knowledge, and encouragement to pursue the projects they most care about.

She is perhaps most gifted at finding ways to tap into the powerful creative forces that lie within her students, to help them create the music that tells their individual stories. As one student summarized, Professor Johnson “showed me how the knowledge and skills we learned in her class could be used to create something beautiful and express sentiments that words can’t quite capture.”
A keystone of Wellesley’s financial strength, the endowment is essential to the College’s investment in students, faculty, and programs. On June 30, 2018 (the end of fiscal year 2018), the endowment had a market value of $2.105 billion. This was an increase of $136 million from the previous year, when the endowment ended fiscal year 2017 at $1.968 billion. The long-term investment-pool portfolio earned a return of 11 percent (net of investment management fees) during fiscal year 2018.

Total Return by Asset Class Year Ended June 30, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Class</th>
<th>Wellesley Return</th>
<th>Market Return</th>
<th>Benchmark/Comparative Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Equity</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>Public Equity Blended Benchmark&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Equity</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>Cambridge Associates&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Assets</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>Real Assets Benchmark&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-marketable&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>Cambridge Associates Hedge Fund-of-Funds Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Income</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>Fixed Income Benchmark&lt;sup&gt;5&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Equivalents</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>Citigroup Three-Month T-Bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Portfolio</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.3%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Public Equity Blended Benchmark is a weighted average of MSCI ACWI, MSCI EAFE, MSCI EM, and Russell 3000.
2. Private Equity results are measured against the Cambridge Associates Private Equity, Growth Equity, Venture Capital, and Distressed indices.
3. Real Assets Benchmark is a weighted average of the NCREIF Timber, Cambridge Associates Real Estate, and the Cambridge Associates Natural Resources Index (x-Timber).
4. Semi-marketable investments include strategies focused on absolute return.
5. Fixed Income Benchmark is a weighted average of the Barclays 5+ Year Treasury Index and the Citigroup World Government Bond Index.
Endowment Frequently Asked Questions

1. How does the endowment strengthen Wellesley?

The endowment is the cornerstone of Wellesley’s financial well-being. Gifts made to the endowment are invested by the College for the long term, providing a perpetual source of support for the College and its mission. The income from the principal is expended in accordance with the College’s spending rule so that the gift continues in perpetuity, helping to safeguard Wellesley against a changing economic climate.

2. How do gifts made to the endowment work?

Gifts to the endowment are invested to ensure Wellesley’s future stability and growth. Endowed gifts exist in perpetuity, with a percentage of the income from the gift distributed annually to support the purpose of the fund (such as internships or professorships). For example, a departmental fund set up at $500,000 distributes approximately $22,000 annually for a department’s use. Over time each gift grows in value, allowing Wellesley to plan effectively for the future.

3. What is a current use gift?

A current use gift is spent immediately, going toward the College’s greatest need or the designation of the donor’s choosing. It is not invested for use in the long term.

4. Can I donate to an already existing endowed fund?

Gifts of any amount can typically be made to an existing endowed fund. You can indicate a specific fund you would like it to go toward, either in writing with your gift (for gifts made online or by mail) or by speaking with a staff member (if making your gift via phone).

Did you know that Wellesley has approximately 3,000 individual endowed funds?
The Davis Museum celebrates the diversity of artmaking around the globe and across time, with a focus on excellence and diversity, historical and aesthetic significance, and relevance to curricular emphases and research interests. Exhibitions demonstrate inventive museological experimentation, engage diverse communities, foster faculty collaborations, and break new scholarly ground. Programs that deepen and expand its reach include the “Davis Discoveries” symposia, Family Days, gallery talks and lectures, and a summer film series. The Davis also creates unique opportunities for Wellesley students—designed to connect them deeply with art and to train them for life beyond campus—including the Davis Museum Student Advisory Committee, the Davis Museum Summer Internship Program, the Student Tour Guide Program, and the new Student Visitor Assistants, who work to engage patrons of every age and interest.

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life aims to nurture the spiritual lives of all Wellesley students during their four years on campus. Students have access to a variety of religious and spiritual communities, from chaplaincies to student-led organizations. Through these programs, they can explore their own and others’ values and beliefs, gather for fellowship and fun, learn from the diverse student body, and form a community that will sustain them throughout their Wellesley journey.

“I think conservation is important not because of the books themselves, but because of the ideas inside of them. A lot of our collection was published before the internet, and there probably isn’t an e-book counterpart. If the book falls apart and just gets thrown out, all of the content within the book would be lost.”
—Lindsey Gordon ’21

“We are here to support students in just becoming who they want to be and in understanding all the different facets of their lives that they bring to campus.”
—Amira Quraishi, interim dean of religious and spiritual life and Muslim chaplain

Library and Technology

With well over 2 million resources available to the entire campus community, Clapp Library remains a central hub for student research. Over half of these resources are in electronic form, with library users increasingly using books, journals, films, and archival records in digital form. Special Collections, which contains first editions by Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, and Henry James, a rare first edition of *The Federalist Papers* by Alexander Hamilton, and the first English translation of Karl Marx’s *Das Kapital*, expanded its primary source material over the last year as well. The Book Arts Lab has also become an increasingly utilized space, with a total of 53 class sessions taught over the last year to 760 students.

“Since the Davis opened its doors in 1993, the encyclopedic collections have grown from 5,000 to 13,000 objects with areas of strength in painting, sculpture, works on paper, photography, and decorative objects, from antiquity to the present day.”
—Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro ’37
Director of the Davis Museum

The World of Art

Referred to as one of the most beautiful college campuses in the United States, Wellesley’s 500 acres include a multitude of winding paths begging for exploration, a private lake, and brick and stone buildings rich with history. Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. once described Wellesley’s campus as “not merely beautiful, but with a marked individual character not represented so far as I know on the ground of any other college in the country.” The recently launched Paulson Ecology of Place Initiative aims to further enhance Wellesley’s relationship with the landscape by more intentionally engaging students with the campus flora and fauna, creating a “living laboratory.”