

AFFORDING OPPORTUNITY

SCHOLARSHIPS

IMPACT FUND

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

WILLIAM & MARY

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.

NUHAMI ALEMU '21

Government and Africana Studies
Alexandria, Virginia

“

My scholarship **opened up doors** that by myself I couldn't access, or that my family couldn't access. It's **lifted a huge burden** off my family's shoulders. I didn't have to feel guilty about the expense of school for my family — I could enjoy time with my friends and **focus on learning.**”

Nuhani



MORE THAN
1,000
EXCEPTIONAL
STUDENTS
RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS
TO ATTEND W&M IN THE PAST
ACADEMIC YEAR, THANKS TO
PRIVATE SUPPORT

1st
FOR ACCESS
AND AFFORDABILITY
IN VIRGINIA
AND RECOGNIZED AS A NATIONAL
LEADER BY THE NEW YORK TIMES

“Scholarships mean opportunity,” says Nuhami Alemu '21. **“Not just the opportunity for an education, but for a good life and a chance to make a difference in the world.”**

Nuhami has seen firsthand what it means to pursue opportunity — to pursue an education for the chance of a better life. Growing up in Ethiopia, she always knew it was her parents’ plan to send her and her sister to America for school, in the hopes that an American education would help their daughters create good lives for themselves. The girls arrived after Nuhami finished fifth grade and lived with their grandmother in Alexandria, Virginia.

At first, Nuhami wasn’t sure she liked her new school or this strange new country, but after the first year, she could see a future for herself here and wanted to stay. Her mother moved to America to join them, and Nuhami began thinking about where high school and college might take her.

Neither of her parents had attended college, and the many schools to choose from and the maze of applications seemed daunting. Her sister was starting VCU, and Nuhami considered following her there. But in her junior year of high school, Nuhami received a leadership prize from William & Mary. She decided to apply, unsure she would get in — or if she could afford it.

When she was accepted and found out she had received a scholarship, Nuhami was overjoyed.

It wasn’t always easy, though, adjusting both to college life and being in a small town where not many people have a background similar to hers. Her sister helped guide her in some of the social aspects, and she found student organizations, the Africana Living Learning Community and the many resources available on campus to be helpful as she navigated the world of William & Mary.

“I’ve been introduced to a whole new world of people, resources and ideas to explore — without this scholarship, had I gone somewhere else or not gone to college, I wouldn’t have had the same opportunities,” she said. “I’ve learned a lot about myself, too.”

At first, she sometimes felt an internal pressure to excel at everything — to make the most of the opportunity she was given by taking as many classes as possible, participating in many extracurriculars and getting good grades.



Now, though, she’s found her balance, focusing on her passions, finding a place for herself here and thriving. She is double majoring in government and Africana Studies and delved into international development, a topic she particularly enjoys, in a winter seminar on international security and development hosted at William & Mary’s Washington Center. She is on the impact committee of Alma Mater Productions, bringing diverse speakers and performers to campus. She also serves as philanthropy chair for the African Cultural Society, working with the nonprofit ZanaAfrica to provide health education to girls in Kenya. The society shares diverse African cultures by hosting events for the William & Mary community.

Building bridges between people of different cultures is a passion for Nuhami. Over the summer, she was a summer intern at PYXERA Global, a consulting firm that facilitates public, private and community partnerships to tackle the world’s challenges, such as promoting sustainable development, increasing food security and improving access to healthcare in countries around the world. When she graduates, she hopes to return to PYXERA or enter the Peace Corps, working to improve the lives of others in all corners of the globe.

The scholarship support she received is part of why she wants to help others.

“My scholarship has given me the gift of education. I’ve seen how it can make a difference for me and those around me,” she says. “I want to open up opportunities so communities here and around the world can have what I’ve had. Scholarships are giving me a better life now and into the future.”

For now, Nuhami is focused on graduation, sad to leave her community here next year but excited for the future.

“I’m excited for graduation, being able to show my family I could do it — but more than that, showing myself. This is for them but it’s also for me,” she says. “I’m really proud of where I’ve come from, my background and my family, and I’m proud of how far I’ve come.”

IN 2019, THERE WAS A
14%
INCREASE IN THE
NUMBER OF DONORS
WHO GAVE TO THE
SCHOLARSHIPS IMPACT FUND
ON ONE TRIBE ONE DAY

MORE THAN
\$53M
HAS BEEN AWARDED TO
UNDERGRADUATES
IN PRIVATELY FUNDED
SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE THE
BEGINNING OF THE CAMPAIGN



MAYA KIM '21

Biology
Rockville, Maryland

“Thank you so much for your generosity. My family doesn't have a lot, and I have two younger brothers, 18 and 16, who are preparing for college. My scholarships help me and my parents **worry less** about how to pay for school, and I can **focus on my research lab**, my sorority and even study abroad.”



JASON VARGAS-ORTEGA '20

History and International Studies
Alexandria, Virginia

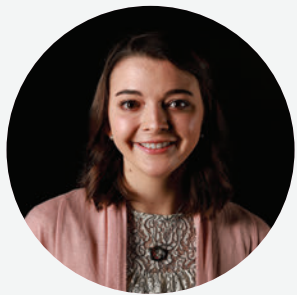
“Thank you so much for your **generosity and support**. This scholarship means so much to me and my family and enables me to continue my studies next year at William & Mary. As a first-generation student, **it is an honor** to receive this scholarship and be able to **further my life's pursuits**.”



CHRISTOPHER SHORT '20

Computer Science
Toano, Virginia

“As a computer science major and a student-athlete, there's a lot on my plate, so **I am grateful for the support that scholarships provide**. Thank you for your generosity, which means I can concentrate on my classes and enjoy my time on the track team this year, knowing I'll start my life after college on better footing.”



JENNA KITTS '21

Middle Eastern Studies
Franklin, Virginia

“William & Mary was always my dream school. Being here has been **challenging, enriching and rewarding** — and it's all possible through your support. My scholarship enables me to pursue my academic interests, **opens up the world** for me and gives me a campus community that feels like a family. Thank you!”

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**

SCHOLARSHIPS IMPACT FUND

BY THE NUMBERS

\$25

MEDIAN GIFT GIVEN

1,933

TOTAL DONORS IN FY19

16.5%

FIRST-GENERATION
COLLEGE STUDENTS

43.7%

PELL GRANT ELIGIBLE

\$128M

THROUGH *FOR THE BOLD*, WE
HAVE RAISED \$128 MILLION OF
THE **\$225 MILLION** GOAL FOR
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS,
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019

84.5%

ENROLLED AS FRESHMEN

15.5%

TRANSFERRED FROM
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OR ANOTHER FOUR-YEAR
INSTITUTION

4.21

AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL GPA
OF ENROLLING FRESHMEN*

76%

RANKED IN THE TOP 10%
OF THEIR CLASS*

* Consistent with averages for all incoming students.

THIS YEAR THROUGH THE SCHOLARSHIPS IMPACT FUND

THERE ARE

103

STUDENTS RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM
THE SCHOLARSHIPS IMPACT FUND IN
THE 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

MORE THAN

\$1.1M

WAS RAISED IN FISCAL YEAR 2019 TO AFFORD
OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS, NEARLY DOUBLE
THE AMOUNT RAISED IN FISCAL YEAR 2018

\$10,000

WAS THE MEDIAN AWARD PROVIDED
TO RECIPIENTS

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 be invited to meet some of William & Mary's remarkable scholarship recipients at Homecoming & Reunion Weekend.

WILLIAM & MARY

ForTheBold.wm.edu/scholarships

#wmforthebold

For more information about scholarships, please contact:

Suzie Armstrong

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