

Forward From Here

Stories, Updates, and Opportunities that Shape the Campaign for Bowdoin



The Commencement Celebration
for the Class of 2020, August 14, 2021

Bowdoin Announces the First Promise Challenge

The College is excited to announce the **First Promise Challenge**: an anonymous donor has agreed to contribute \$5,000,000 in matching funds for financial aid and comprehensive aid, to encourage others to support this core campaign priority.

The first phase of the challenge begins now, and focuses on new endowment donors: **donors who establish a new endowed fund for financial aid or comprehensive aid receive a \$100,000 match for the fund.** For alumni in the ten youngest classes, a \$50,000 endowment gift unlocks a \$50,000 match. On January 1, the challenge opens to all financial aid and comprehensive aid endowments, new or existing. (See inside this issue for more details.)

The first promise of the *From Here* campaign is a commitment to access and opportunity—that students who have earned a place at Bowdoin can enroll, regardless of their financial means, and can take advantage of all of the extraordinary opportunities that the College offers. Bowdoin makes this promise real

through need-blind admission; financial aid that meets full demonstrated need with grants, not loans; and comprehensive aid that removes financial barriers and ensures all students have the tools to succeed. This includes the technology and materials students need to fully participate in classes, the guidance to find their passions, and the care they need to stay healthy—even winter coats and boots to keep warm.

To date, generous donors have given and pledged nearly \$140 million toward the \$200 million campaign goal for financial and comprehensive aid. The purpose of the First Promise Challenge is to inspire the Bowdoin community to meet this critical goal, so that the College can deliver on its core promise to current and future generations of Bowdoin students.

The First Promise Challenge

Donors of \$100,000 or more to a named scholarship or comprehensive aid endowment are eligible to receive a single \$100,000 match to their endowed fund, as follows:

- The Challenge begins on September 1 and ends when fifty commitments are secured and the \$5,000,000 in matching funds is fully allocated. Eligibility will be on a first-come-first-served basis.
- During the first phase of the challenge, from September 1 through December 31, donors who establish their first scholarship or comprehensive aid endowment are eligible for the \$100,000 match. These donors will automatically receive matching funds.
- Beginning on January 1, donors to existing scholarships or comprehensive aid endowments are also eligible for the match, as long as the matching funds have not yet been fully allocated. These donors will be matched upon request.
- To qualify for a match, a donor's gift or pledge of \$100,000 or more may be payable over up to five years. The \$100,000 match will be added directly to the donor's named endowment fund once their gift and pledge payments total \$100,000.
- GOLD donors (graduates of the last decade, or Classes of 2012–2021) will be eligible with recorded commitments of \$50,000, with a one-to-one match of up to \$100,000 from the challenge pool.



For more information about the **First Promise Challenge**, contact Michael Archibald, vice president for development and alumni relations, at 207-725-3670 or marchiba@bowdoin.edu, or your contact in the development and alumni relations office.



Mary Jo Keaney '86 (left) and Winkley Professor of Latin and Greek Barbara Weiden Boyd (right)

Bottom: Professor Boyd teaching Elementary Latin in fall 2017.

Educator Mary Jo Keaney '86 Honors Mentor Barbara Weiden Boyd with Classics Fund

A former principal of Ursuline Academy of Dedham, Massachusetts, and St. Peter's School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mary Jo Keaney '86 credits Winkley Professor of Latin and Greek Barbara Weiden Boyd with continuing to foster her love of education and developing her skills as a classicist. At a time when few women professors taught classics, Professor Boyd encouraged Mary Jo to pursue a most rigorous course of studies in the classics department and to attend Stanford's Intercollegiate Center for Classics in Rome, Italy. Professor Boyd's mentorship resulted in helping Mary Jo master both Greek and Latin and be awarded the Nathan Gould Prize. She graduated *magna cum laude* from

Bowdoin, earned a master's degree in education from Harvard, and became a lifelong educator.

As the College kicks off its yearlong celebration, *Leaders in All Walks of Life: 50 Years of Women at Bowdoin*, Mary Jo has established the **Barbara Weiden Boyd Endowment Fund** through a planned gift. The fund honors Professor Boyd's legacy, as it will provide funding for enrichment activities for classics majors and minors, such as student trips to Italy and other classical sites led by classics faculty, particularly for women students or others who belong to groups traditionally underrepresented in the study of classics.





The Bowdoin Scientific Station on Kent Island is located just south of the island of Grand Manan in the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick, Canada.

From the Doherty Foundation: A Postdoc on Kent Island, and a Challenge

A longtime partner of the College in the teaching and study of marine science and coastal studies, the Henry L. and Grace Doherty Charitable Foundation recently created a fund that will support a new Kent Island postdoctoral scholar program. The program will allow the College to diversify its research on the environment, particularly in the area of climate change. **The Henry L. and Grace Doherty Charitable Foundation Kent Island Postdoctoral Scholar Fund** will enable Bowdoin to hire a scholar to conduct original research at the Bowdoin Scientific Station on Kent Island, to teach and mentor students, and to deepen collaborative ties with other colleges, universities, and field research stations engaged in similar work. Doherty Foundation Director and Secretary Jim Billingsley '84 emphasized the work being done at Kent Island and its impact on understanding climate change, as well as the opportunities this new program will provide emerging scholars

and the collaborations it will foster, all areas the foundation is particularly excited to support.

This new program fits squarely within Bowdoin's focus on academic innovation, and the foundation's grant to establish an endowed fund in support of it challenges the Bowdoin community to become involved through a match requirement. Among the first Bowdoin alumni stepping up to meet this challenge with gifts of their own include Patricia O'Brien Towle '76 and Andrew Towle, Amanda Cannell-Boone '77, P'13, Clifton Eliason '70, Ed Minot '70, Frannie Hochberg-Giuffrida '97 and Jeffrey Giuffrida, and Jacqueline Hollister (Smith '73). For more information on making a matching contribution to the Doherty Kent Island Postdoctoral Scholar program, contact Liz Armstrong in the Office of Gift Planning at larmstr@bowdoin.edu or 207-798-4232.



Lily Bailey '18 and David Anderson '19 excavate soil as part of Lily's research on Kent Island in 2017.

“Our hope is that students in the future will see the lasting impact that you made and decide to do the same.”

—WIN STEWART, SPEAKING ABOUT HIS FATHER-IN-LAW, COLE HARRIS '78.

Family Surprises Cole Harris '78 with Endowed Scholarship Fund

Overcome with emotion, Cole Harris '78 remarked, “No one has ever done anything like this for me.” At a brief ceremony with his family in front of Bowdoin’s polar bear statue, Cole had just learned that his son-in-law and daughter, Win and Morgan Stewart, had made a \$500,000 gift to Bowdoin to endow a scholarship in his name, the **J. Cole Harris '78 Scholarship Fund**.

The gift was the ultimate tribute—and surprise—for a man who grew up with modest means, made it to Bowdoin by sheer force of will and determination, and came by success later in life with, as Win explained it, “grit—and a hell of a lot of it.” “We wanted to ensure that you had a lasting legacy,” Win continued, explaining his and Morgan’s rationale for the gift. “It’s safe to say, your attending Bowdoin changed a lot of lives, especially mine. . . . Bowdoin was founded over two hundred years ago, and every year for the next two hundred and more, a Bowdoin student who couldn’t otherwise afford to attend will be receiving your scholarship, learning about your story of determination and grit. Our hope is that students in the future will see the lasting impact that you made and decide to do the same.”



Hadley Stewart, Win Stewart, Daphne Harris '77, Cole Harris '78, Morgan Stewart, Wes Stewart



Other New Endowed Funds

David N. Baxter '59 Family Endowment Fund, provides general support for the College, established by David Baxter '59.

Class of 1972 Scholarship Fund, provides financial aid for Bowdoin undergraduates, established by Steve Gormley '72, P'06, P'09, P'11, Barry Mills '72, H'15, Bobbitt Noel '72, Cliff Webster '72, P'10, P'16, and other members of their class.

Gail M. and John S. George Scholarship Fund, provides financial aid for Bowdoin undergraduates from the state of Maine, established by trustee Alison George Rundlett '03.

Gordon Family Scholarship Fund, provides financial aid for Bowdoin undergraduates, established by Lilli Gordon '76, David Gordon '71, P'19, and Scott Gordon '83.

Guiffre Family Fund, provides financial aid for Bowdoin undergraduates, established by Craig Guiffre P'14 and Nancy Guiffre P'14.

Haas-Fisher Summer Fellowship Fund, provides support for summer fellowships for students to work with the homeless and housing-insecure population, established by Don Fisher '71 and Susan Haas.

Ikeda Blakely Family Scholarship Fund, provides financial aid for Bowdoin undergraduates, established by Tim Blakely '96, P'23, P'25 and Debbie Ikeda Blakely '96, P'23, P'25.

Harriet Holmes Richards '92 Fund, provides comprehensive aid for needs of students beyond those covered by traditional financial aid, particularly for economically disadvantaged students and students from underrepresented cultures or backgrounds, established by James A. Ellis '82 and Professor Emeritus Randolph Stakeman. Professor Stakeman also led the effort to establish the precursor to this endowment, The Harriet Richards '92 Emergency Grant Fund, which involved admiring alumni, faculty, staff, and friends paying tribute to the meaningful role that Harriet Holmes Richards played in the lives of many members of Bowdoin's Black community.

For more information about *From Here: The Campaign for Bowdoin*, visit bowdoin.edu/fromhere.

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