As of December 1, generous alumni, families, friends, students, faculty, and staff have contributed or committed $352 million toward From Here: The Campaign for Bowdoin. That total represents over 70 percent of the campaign’s $500 million goal. Just as significant, more than 52 percent of Bowdoin alumni have personally engaged with the College—by volunteering, participating in a program, or making a gift—marking extraordinary progress toward the campaign’s 85 percent engagement goal. We still have a long way to go, but the view looks pretty promising from here.

Three Promises
The From Here campaign is built on three promises to current and future Bowdoin students: the promise of access for all deserving students, regardless of their financial means, to the full Bowdoin experience; the promise of a transformational education that is at once innovative, flexible, deeply relevant, and grounded in the liberal arts tradition; and the promise of a great first job, and the tools for a meaningful, satisfying post-Bowdoin path.
Promise One: Access to the Full Bowdoin Experience

This promise underscores the College’s commitment to need-blind admissions paired with no-loan financial aid that meets every student’s full demonstrated need. It also enables Bowdoin to provide aid to students so that they can fully engage in College life—comprehensive aid beyond tuition room and board for things like airfare to a study abroad program, supplies for a visual art class, the costs of a family visit to campus, and even a winter coat and boots.
“I am grateful for the quiet, constant, reassuring ‘pat on the back’ we both received through the countless gifts of kindness from faculty, administrators, staff, and students.”

—Carol Ramsey

Paying Forward a “Pat on the Back”

In 1974 Carol Ramsey landed her first job out of college as assistant to Bowdoin’s dean of students. Forty years later, her cousin, John Sledge ’18, arrived on campus. “We were both shown small but persistent examples of the College’s courage and confidence in people untried,” she explains. “I am grateful for the quiet, constant, reassuring ‘pat on the back’ we both received through the countless gifts of kindness from faculty, administrators, staff, and students.” An emerita trustee of her alma mater, Connecticut College, as well as Northfield Mount Hermon and the Thatcher School, Ramsey’s position at Bowdoin marked the start of a life and career of student advocacy, nonprofit management, and public service. Ramsey recently established the Carol J. Ramsey Equality and Justice Fund for Comprehensive Aid at Bowdoin through a planned gift, both to support the needs of future students beyond traditional financial aid so that they may pursue social justice and to express her cousin’s and her own gratitude for being valued members of the College community.

A Substantial Boost for Financial Aid

The oldest of eight children from a single-income household, trustee Joe McDevitt ’75 could not have attended Bowdoin without financial aid. His time on campus as student leader of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, his three years in Korea as a member of the Peace Corps, and his career in international investments taught Joe the value of understanding different cultures and viewpoints. Joe and his wife, Won Young, established a scholarship fund in 2007, recognizing that financial aid is key to attracting students from different backgrounds and perspectives to Brunswick. As part of the campaign, they have committed a major additional gift to the McDevitt Family Scholarship Fund, further boosting the College’s financial aid program.

Making International Students Feel at Home in Brunswick

Run Ye ’03 feels grateful not only for his Bowdoin education, but also for the kindness and acceptance he received from the College community. Now managing partner and chief investment officer at Tiger Pacific Capital, Run was an international student many miles from his family in Shanghai, China, but his Bowdoin host family always made him feel at home in Brunswick. When they passed away, Run honored their memory by establishing the Natalie and Fritz Kempner Scholarship Fund, which will provide financial aid for international students.
OTHER NEW ENDOWED FUNDS FOR FINANCIAL AND COMPREHENSIVE AID
Since August 1, 2019

William S. Anderson ’80 Scholarship Fund, financial aid for students, established by trustee Bill Anderson ’80.

Bernard Family Scholarship Fund, financial aid for students, established by trustee Peter Bernard ’79, P’11, P’17, Andrew Bernard ’11, and Martin Bernard ’17.

Mark Robert Boucher Memorial Scholarship Fund, financial aid for students from Brockton, Easton, Plymouth County, and Bristol County, Massachusetts, established by Patti Boucher W’85, Bill Marr ’85, Todd Herrmann ’85, and other family, classmates, and friends of Mark Boucher ’85.


Buckley Family Fund, comprehensive aid primarily for students from Maine, established by Mike Buckley ’07 and Casey Buckley.

Class of 1971 Scholarship Fund, financial aid for students, established by trustee Lee Cotton ’71, P’01 and other members of the Class of 1971.

Cline Family Scholarship Fund, financial aid for students, established by Dan Cline ’76, P’05 and Lauren Cline P’05.

Henry L. Conway Jr. ’51 Scholarship Fund, financial aid for students from public Baltimore city high schools, as well as students from public high schools in other urban areas, established by Ben Conway ’86 and his wife, Theresa.

Foundation for the Greatest Good Scholarship Fund, financial aid for students, established by trustee Stewart Bainum Jr. P’14 and Sandy Bainum P’14.

Friedlander Family Scholarship Fund, financial aid for students, established by Martin Friedlander ’71, P’06, P’08, P’14, P’18 and Sheila Friedlander P’06, P’08, P’14, P’18.

John Family Scholarship Fund, financial aid for students, established by Elizabeth John P’22 and Jan John ’91, P’22.

Fori and Robert Kay Scholarship Fund, financial aid for students, established by Fori Kay P’22 and Robert Kay P’22.

Monaghan Family Fund, comprehensive aid for students, established by William Monaghan P’22 and Alison Monaghan P’22.

Richard and Eleanor Morrell Scholarship Fund, financial aid for students, established by Richard A. Morrell ’50 and Eleanor M. Morrell.

The Robert H. Pfeiffer ’67 “Pfeif” Fund to Give Students in the Sciences Equal Access to a Full Bowdoin Experience, comprehensive aid to enrich the education of students in the sciences, established by the Gustavus and Louise Pfeiffer Research Foundation in memory of Athletic Hall of Honor member known to friends and teammates as “Pfeif.”

Piper Family Fund, comprehensive aid for students whose full participation in the College community may be limited by their personal or family finances, established by Jon Piper ’72, P’05, Mary Piper P’05, John Piper ’05, and Rebecca Piper ’07.

Roy Family Endowment Fund, general support for the College, established by Chris Roy ’92 and Anne Roy ’93.

Serwer Family Scholarship Fund, financial aid for first-generation and low-income students, established by trustee Andy Sewer ’81, P’16, P’20, Emily Serwer ’16, Katie Serwer ’20, and Nicholas Serwer.

Eleanor Barnes Toussignant and Elizabeth Macfarlane Marsh Memorial Scholarship Fund, financial aid for female students from Maine, established by Sean Marsh ’95 and Jill Marsh.

An Outpouring in Memory of Ray Troubh ’50, P’88, H’03

The recent passing of renowned overseer emeritus Ray Troubh ’50, P’88, H’03 prompted an outpouring of gifts in his memory to the Jean L. and Raymond Troubh Scholarship Fund. Nearly fifty Bowdoin classmates, friends, and colleagues from his influential career as a corporate director and financial consultant honored Ray’s leadership at Bowdoin with over $40,000 in contributions to the fund.

Ray Troubh ’50, P’88, H’03

Remembering Amanda Rowe Lamb ’04

Ken Rowe ’69, P’04 and Joanne Rowe P’04 recently established the Amanda Rowe Lamb ’04 Scholarship Fund in loving memory of their daughter. Amanda majored in biochemistry and Spanish and subsequently spent several years assisting in cancer research at the Zon Lab at Harvard/Boston Children’s Hospital and Georgetown University. After earning her master’s degree in genetic counseling at Johns Hopkins University and the National Institutes of Health’s Clinical Center, she and her husband, Colin Lamb ’04, moved to Maine, where she became Maine Medical Center’s cancer genetic counselor. During her time there, she helped countless families navigate their genetic cancer risk and treatment options. Before her passing on September 14, 2019, from appendiceal cancer, Amanda was hopeful that one day a recipient of the fund, which will provide financial aid for life science majors from Maine, would engage in critical cancer research.

Nola, Amanda ’04, and Colin Lamb ’04
Promise Two: A Transformative Education

The campaign’s second promise elevates the academic program with resources for curricular innovation, new professorships, and support for digital and computational studies, the Museum of Art, and individual departments and programs.

A New Resource for Academic Innovation

Bowdoin parents Morgan Sze and Bobbi Hernandez recently created the Sze Family Endowment Fund for Faculty Development. Innovation and creativity run deep in the Sze family. Morgan’s father, Morgan Chuan-Yuan Sze, was a chemical engineer who held over eighty patents and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. Morgan’s brother Arthur was the first poet laureate of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and received the 2019 National Book Award for Poetry. And Morgan himself helped pioneer the market for alternative reinsurance before becoming a portfolio manager at Goldman Sachs and founding his own investment fund. Morgan and Bobbi were both English majors in college and share a strong belief in the benefits of a broad liberal arts education. The Sze Fund encourages and supports innovation in Bowdoin’s academic program through the Baldwin Center for Learning and Teaching Faculty Fellows program, which provides faculty with stipends and resources for course development, conference participation, and outside speakers.

Other New Endowed Funds for the Academic Program and Student Research Fellowships

Since August 1, 2019

- Donald M. Bloch ’60 Student Research Fellowship Fund, research fellowships for students majoring in government, history, or economics, established by Donald Bloch ’60
- Bowdoin College Museum of Art Fund, care of the Museum of Art’s permanent collection, established by Bryson Brodie ’00
- The Henry L. and Grace Doherty Charitable Foundation Kent Island Postdoctoral Scholar Fund, postdoctoral scholar at the Bowdoin Scientific Station on Kent Island, established by The Henry L. and Grace Doherty Charitable Foundation.
- Robert Freedman ’87, P’17 and Anne Cirillo P’17 Student Fellowship Fund, student fellowships for women and underrepresented groups in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields, established by Rob Freedman ’87, P’17 and Anne Cirillo P’17.
- The Hayes Foundation Fund for the Environment, student research related to the environment, established by The Hayes Foundation.
- The Hayes Foundation Fund for the Visual Arts, student projects in the visual arts, established by The Hayes Foundation.
- Munno Family Research Fellowship Fund, student research in neuroscience, established by David Munno ’99.
- Psychology Department Innovation Fund, innovative academic programming in the psychology department, established by an anonymous donor.
- Rebecca Rowe ’97 Fund for Arctic Studies, Arctic studies faculty, staff, and students, established by Rebecca Rowe ’97.
- Russian Department Endowment Fund, needs of the Russian department, established by an anonymous donor.
- St. Mary Family Endowment Fund, chemistry and theater and dance departments and student clubs, established by Jonathan St. Mary ’67.
- Visual Arts Endowment Fund, creative, professional experiences for students in the visual arts, established by an anonymous donor.

Campaign Progress: The Academic Program

$46.6 million raised as of December 1, 2020

$83 million goal

56.1 percent to goal
Promise Three: A Great First Job and a Meaningful Career

The third campaign promise prioritizes the activities, resources, and programming that enable students to explore career paths that create opportunities for them to engage in meaningful work throughout their lives. These include a funded internship for every aided student, core skill development through programs like the Sophomore Boot Camp, and industry-specific programming such as West Trek and Tech Trek.

Donors Accelerate Class of 2020’s Opportunities

In May, as the Class of 2020 graduated into a pandemic-stricken economy, Career Exploration and Development (CXD), with the help of a group of alumni, quickly launched a new grant program to help these seniors. Employment Accelerator Grants, ranging from $250 to $2,000, enabled graduating seniors to land internships, create short-term projects, and enroll in professional certification programs. All ninety-six students who applied for grants—with projects ranging from research in labs to podcasts to local government internships to the Harvard Business School business certificate program—received them, thanks to the nineteen donors who supported them: Tejus Ajmera ’04; Alan Christenfeld ’73; Eric Ebeling ’98; Matthew Greitzer ’98 and Kimberly Driessen ’98; Peter Healey ’73; Kristen Kolkhorst Nelson ’82; Sean Marsh ’95 and Jill Marsh; Michael Milligan ’86, P’22; Chris Pine ’92, P’22, P’23 and Becky Pine ’91, P’22, P’23; Hilary A. Rapkin ’88 and William H. Stiles; Scott S. Stikeleather ’90 and Mollie Cunningham Stikeleather ’90; Michael T. Sullivan ’94; Faye I. Weitzman ’82; and Robert J. Whelan ’83.
Stories, Updates, and Opportunities that Shape the Campaign for Bowdoin

Forward From Here

Annual Giving Update

Gifts to Bowdoin’s annual funds—the Alumni Fund, Parents Fund, Polar Bear Athletic Fund, and Friends Fund—provide immediate support to all facets of the student experience. As we close in on the 50 percent mark of the campaign's annual giving goal, we cannot lose sight of the important role that annual gifts of all sizes play in the three promises.

Endowment Update

In a historically challenging time, Bowdoin’s investment team—Senior Vice President Paula Volent, her staff, and the Trustee Committee on Investments—once again managed the College’s endowment to an enviable return. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, the endowment grew by 5.9 percent, an extraordinarily strong performance compared with the Cambridge Associates median return of 1.8 percent for all college and university endowments over the same period. Bowdoin’s three-, five-, and ten-year annualized returns were 10.7 percent, 8.5 percent, and 11.6 percent, respectively, outpacing the median returns of 5.2 percent, 5.0 percent, and 7.4 percent, and placing the College’s returns in the top fifth percentile in all three measures.

As of June 30, Bowdoin’s endowment stood at $1.8 billion. The College leans heavily on the endowment for financial aid funding—nearly half of the endowment is restricted by donors to financial aid use, and the $33 million distributed from endowment income last year provided approximately three-quarters of the College’s $45 million financial aid budget. Fifty-one percent of Bowdoin’s most recent incoming class are receiving financial aid, and with COVID-related layoffs and other financial challenges facing many applicants and their families, that number will continue to rise. That is why growth of the endowment for financial aid, both through investment performance and gifts to the College, is the campaign’s highest priority.

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