



Wellesley
Students'
Aid
Society



2023 ANNUAL
BULLETIN

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THE WELLESLEY STUDENTS’ AID SOCIETY was founded within Wellesley College and incorporated in 1916 “for the purpose of securing, holding and dispersing funds to be loaned or given to students of Wellesley College whose personal means are insufficient for their support in college” (WSAS articles of incorporation). WSAS has remained dedicated to this mission and to giving Wellesley students the financial freedom to succeed in school and beyond for more than 100 years.

WSAS has helped tens of thousands of students with everything from tuition aid to emergency funds to warm coats for the winter. It’s all made possible by our generous alumnae and friends, who have paved the way for generations of women to get a great Wellesley education.

Your donation to WSAS counts toward Wellesley College’s overall participation rate, which may boost its eligibility for grant and other funding. Donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you!

PHOTO CREDITS: Back cover photos, Catherine Kefalas ’89; Front cover and alumnae photos from reunion, Lisa Abitbol; page 1 photo, Natasha Moustache. **NOTE:** Although WSAS support reaches two-thirds of all Wellesley students, those pictured in this bulletin are not necessarily recipients of WSAS aid.



Dear Friends of WSAS,

Each year, as I carefully go through the Annual Wellesley Students’ Aid Society Bulletin, my heart swells with a mixture of gratitude and reverence. I’m struck by the recurring appearance of the phrases “in memory of” and “memorial”. Many of these are funds created by Wellesley alumnae in memory of dear classmates. Others are from family members who wish to honor their mothers or grandmothers, who have shared their cherished memories of their time at Wellesley.

What always strikes me, as I sit down to write letters of gratitude, is the vivid image of a long chain of Wellesley women, resolutely supporting today’s Wellesley students. This chain spans nearly a century and a half. It’s a testament to the enduring bonds that tie us together, transcending time and generations.

As beautifully recounted in a history compiled by Diane Speare Triant ’68, a former dedicated secretary of WSAS, in 1878, a group of Wellesley alumnae gathered to establish a financial aid society. Their goal was to ensure that both “calico girls” and “velvet girls” (in the eloquent words of the Wellesley College founders, the Durants) could receive a Wellesley education. From this modest beginning, the WSAS flourished, marking 145 years of Wellesley women embodying the college motto by wholeheartedly “ministering” to the current student body.

The legacy of compassion and support is awe-inspiring. I’m confident that when today’s students step into the wide world, they will continue this noble tradition.

The ongoing support we provide is a direct result of the generous contributions from all of you, as well as the enduring memory of remarkable Wellesley women who have paved the way. I invite you to uphold this tradition by making a tax-deductible donation today. You can do so by completing the enclosed donation form and sending it back, or by visiting our website at www.wellesley.edu/studentsaid to make an online contribution. Your support makes a world of difference.

“I get choked up recalling the generosity with no strings attached. I was able to regain my dignity and pay for college.”

Student,
class of 1984

Thank you!
Jamie Ann Sabino
Jamie Ann Sabino ’75
President, WSAS

GIVING BACK IS A WAY OF COMING FULL CIRCLE

SUPPORT FROM WSAS HAS PROVIDED MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENERATIONS OF BRIGHT YOUNG WOMEN WHO ARE INTENT ON MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

This year, due to your generosity, the WSAS Board unanimously voted to increase support to students:

- ★ Increase Amazon.com gift card awarded to all students on financial aid from \$100 to **\$150** (over 1,400 students), totaling **\$210,000**.
- ★ Provide each graduating senior on financial aid **\$150**, again an increase from \$100, totaling **\$56,250**.
- ★ Fund **ten** new WSAS Student Service Grants, totaling **\$49,950**.
- ★ Award **200 students** with WSAS Winter Clothing Grants for \$100 each. Every student request was met, totaling **\$20,000**.

★ The Board also continued its yearly substantial pledge to the college, which plays a part in allowing Wellesley to remain need blind. For the 2023-2024 academic year, this entails **\$600,000** allocated for tuition loans and **\$760,000** designated for tuition grants.

WSAS continues to accept donations for the Clothes Closet and Residential Resource Closet, where students can find a host of winter essentials and personal care items.

Because of alumnae's tremendous support, we have increased our student staff to 4 students. These amazing staff members act as liaisons to the community and work to make your donations available, diligently organizing and sorting clothes. From the contributions we receive to coordinating resources that will reach those in need of support—this is the heart and soul of what WSAS is all about. We are so very proud of this synergy and cannot thank our donors or our staff enough for all we are able to achieve together.

MEET THE STUDENT STAFF



Anaejah Battle '27

I am so excited to be working for the Wellesley Students' Aid Society. I am looking forward to helping my fellow sibs, and joining the team!



Lizbeth Becerra '24

I am really thankful for all the resources and support that WSAS constantly offers the Wellesley community and I am proud to be a contributor to this supportive community.



Sofia Dewey '27

I worked on sustainability and community-based initiatives with my local government back home, and am super excited to be joining the WSAS team.



Bao Nghi Pham '26

I'm delighted to be a part of WSAS this year as a student assistant. Curious about what we have? Want to donate? Come on down... hope to see everyone soon!

Our impact | 2022-2023

RESOLUTELY SUPPORTING TODAY'S Wellesley students in their educational pursuits means nurturing tomorrow's change-makers. By providing them with the resources, guidance, and encouragement they need, we empower them to push forward and leave their mark on the world. These students represent the future leaders, innovators, and thinkers who will shape our society for the better.

With your generous support, in 2022–2023 WSAS was able to provide:

- \$760,000** in pledged tuition grants
- \$600,000** in pledged tuition loans
- \$50,000** in pledged Student Services grants
- \$241,000** in additional financial and other gifts*

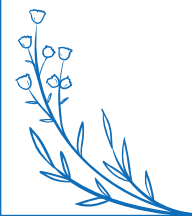
\$1,651,000 TOTAL

* Gifts include funding for medical and other emergencies, support for all students on financial aid (including gift cards for textbooks), and necessities such as winter clothes and linens.

For the 2023–2024 academic year, WSAS has committed \$600,000 to loans and \$760,000 in tuition grants to the college. This pledge is in addition to thousands of dollars in emergency funding, no-interest loans, student services grants, and essential resources for students.

“Your support and engagement have helped Wellesley through some of the most challenging times the College has ever faced.... Through your dedication, your generosity, and your profound commitment to our students, you help us live up to the values and ideals we hold dear at Wellesley.”

Paula A. Johnson
President, Wellesley College, at the
2022 WSAS Annual Celebration



145 Years of Helping Students

Savoring her morning coffee from a treasured mug bestowed upon her at the culmination of a 21-year tenure on the Students' Aid board (1987-2008), Diane Speare Triant's ('68) eyes fixed on the inscription, "Helping Students Since 1878." The significance was not lost on her. The WSAS, a steadfast beacon in illuminating the path of student life, had remained a constant force for 145 years. She set out to capture the long history, as well as intriguing anecdotes from the archives—bound to inform, amuse, and, above all, inspire.

1878 Wellesley alumnae hold a meeting in one Mrs. Simpson's parlor and achieve Pauline Durant's (wife of Wellesley College founder Henry) desire of establishing a financial aid organization to allow a Wellesley education for "calico girls" as well as "velvet girls." Reverend N.G. Clark comments that this initiative makes it possible "to train women for use rather than ornament."

1900s A grateful student writes: "Your gift gave me the thing I most wanted; a new dress eventually wears out, but the education is mine to keep as long as I live." Yet another writes: "Every time I entered Miss Caswell's office, usually feeling like a half cent, I always went out feeling like a million dollars."

1916 When Pauline Durant is no longer able to continue her informal shepherding of the Society, alumnae ensure that her work will continue through legal incorporation. Accordingly, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts grants an official charter to WSAS to "secure, hold, and disperse funds to be loaned or given to students..."

1919 A junior comes to the office, struggling financially and homeless. (Her mother is working in a Boston factory and living in a room with another woman.) WSAS helps her from its collection of War Savings Stamps donated by generous alumnae of the WWI era.

1920 An alumna receives in the mail an acknowledgment for her donation, novel in that it is no longer handwritten. She responds to the Society president, "It's good to see you writing in type!"

1930s To raise \$1300-\$1500 for the Society, Mrs. McDougal (wife of Wellesley's Music Department head) holds an annual rummage sale in Wellesley of "fineries and necessities." Wellesley Clubs throughout the country sponsor "whist parties" and "silver teas" to garner donations.

1940s The WSAS secretary reports: "We are available for emergency gifts and loans not anticipated in the close budgeting of scholarship girls...books, doctors' fees, new glasses, and even payment for an X-ray to discover what had happened to the safety pin one student swallowed!"

1946 The Class of 1904 establishes memorials "in memory of the six sons of 1904 who gave their lives for their country in World War II."

1950 The WSAS president: "We believe in economy of all things except money for our undergraduates!"

1960s An 85-year-old member of the class of 1903 mails in a second Life Membership, deeming it necessary as "I have outlived the first one;" while another alumna delivers her overdue final loan repayment exclaiming, "It feels wonderful and I thank you for your patience. I shall forge ahead. Never dies the dream!"

1967 The Society, receiving word that a student's dorm room was robbed of her small savings of \$30 from doing housework, sends her a \$50 check. She visits the office to return the extra \$20, saying, "Please give it to someone who needs it more than I do. I have so many good jobs." WSAS does as she requests, but also gifts her a surprise check at Christmas break.

1984 A student from Tehran, Iran arrives at Wellesley destitute, having studied by candlelight in a room heated only by a kerosene lamp when her family's assets were frozen during the Islamic Revolution. "I scrimped, I saved," she said, "and I went to Students' Aid for relief. They didn't judge, pity, or question me. They extended a hand."

1988 Gloria Steinem (a Smith grad) speaks at Wellesley's commencement. In her address is a happy surprise, as she displays knowledge of the Students' Aid Society, "founded in the early years of the college to assure a diverse student body."

1990 A blind student thanks the Society for funding her service dog's training. "With Spirit by my side, the most demanding situations will be a little easier to handle."

1992 College President Nannerl Keohane: "For our students [there is] not only the fundamental cost of college, but also of those things that come around the edge... At very few institutions is there anything like Students' Aid which gives students that margin of support that is sometimes deep and sometimes small, but always crucial." - The office joins the Howard computer network, enabling the use of a novelty called "E" mail!

1999 WSAS unveils its first website, created by a team of students as a class project. Their grade? A.

2007 Note with an alumna's donation: "Please direct my gift to a student from a rural background, as my mother's Wellesley tuition was financed by my grandmother's raising of prize-winning white Orpington chickens."

2009 A junior thanks the Society for underwriting her trip to Washington DC: "You helped me to see the Supreme Court in action...from being in the courtroom, hearing two cases brought before the Court, to meeting a justice afterwards. I had an amazing day!"

2013 An alumna donates 26 gifts cards of \$100 each to be granted to appropriate students as "26 acts of kindness" in response to the Sandy Hook School tragedy.

2016 The Society celebrates 100 years of incorporation. College President H. Kim Bottomly praises WSAS "for continuing to put our students first."

2020s WSAS establishes \$10,000 grants to mitigate financial barriers for students in need of higher-level mental health treatment.

In the words of former Dean Teresa Frisch, recorded into the minutes almost 60 years ago but still fresh today: "Truly the college motto has found one of its most noble interpretations in the founding of the Students' Aid Society."

"How did the spark of an idea in 1916 ignite such a lasting flame? The generosity of those visionary Victorian-era ladies has found its modern-day counterpart in the hundreds of alumnae, family members, and others who respond to the WSAS Bulletin's annual appeal."

Diane Speare Triant '68,
from the WSAS 100th Anniversary Booklet



“WSAS is a great treasure of the Wellesley community; they make Wellesley a more equitable place. The remarkable experience I had at Wellesley College would have been impossible without WSAS. There are no words to describe my immense gratitude to the donors and staff who keep this organization running, and I will make it my life mission to pass this generosity forward.”

Rhoda Tano-Menka '19

\$1.36M

Pledged in tuition aid for Wellesley College students during the 2023-2024 academic year

145

Years of helping Wellesley students overcome financial burdens

670

Students awarded with WSAS Winter Clothing grants for \$100, totaling \$67,000 since inception of program



FINANCIAL STATEMENT



The Wellesley Students' Aid Society, Inc. Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets

	JUNE 30, 2023	JUNE 30, 2022
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$705,768	\$1,549,647
Loans receivable	\$1,465,711	\$1,536,865
Investments	\$42,234,267	\$38,201,682
Prepaid expenses, software, furniture	\$1,603	\$2,145
Contribution receivable	\$2,087	\$9,700
Accrued interest receivable	\$27,658	\$28,496
TOTAL ASSETS	\$44,437,094	\$41,328,535
NET ASSETS		
Total unrestricted	\$43,693,823	\$40,636,445
Temporarily restricted	\$714,346	\$672,312
Accrued expenses	\$28,925	\$19,778
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$44,437,094	\$41,328,535

The Wellesley Students' Aid Society applies the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Board of Directors has designated as unrestricted scholarship funds all permanent funds donated to the Society without restriction on the use of income earned on investment of the principal fund balance. The income earned thereon is available to unrestricted general funds to assist in funding the operations of the Society.

A provision is made for doubtful loans when they are determined to be uncollectible.

The Society has committed \$1,360,000 for financial aid to students at Wellesley College during the academic year 2023–2024. Of this amount, \$760,000 will be given in the form of scholarships and \$600,000 as student loans repayable to the Society.

The above statement of assets, liabilities, and net assets as of June 30, 2023, has been derived from the Wellesley Students' Aid Society, Inc.'s audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023.

WSAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

2023–2024

PRESIDENT Jamie Sabino '75

VICE PRESIDENT Denise Robbi '90

SECRETARY Dana Sundblad '90

TREASURER Tanya M. Roy '81

DIRECTORS Keertana Anandraj '18

Raja Ashraf '03

Beth Bernhardt '79

Stanley Chang (Faculty Representative)

Shelley Cobb Dowling '90

Anna Erlich '18

Heather Kispert Hagerty '95

Rachel Lam '15

Tess Mattern (Staff Representative)

Anhar Mulla '81

Esther Han Silver '99



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Catherine Kefalas '89

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Kat Longee

STAY CONNECTED WITH WSAS

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FAX: (781) 283-2293

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ckefalas@wellesley.edu

Kat Longee, Assistant Director,
klongee@wellesley.edu

WEBSITE: www.wellesley.edu/studentsaid

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/wellesleystudentsaid

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/wellesleysas



Celebrate with us in 2024

This year's WSAS celebration featured a special message from Wellesley College President Paula A. Johnson, as well as heartwarming stories from two graduating student assistants, who spoke about the impact your donations make to students.

We hope you'll join us for next year's celebration, which will take place Saturday, May 25, 2024—

Wellesley College reunion weekend.

Watch our website for details coming soon!



We always love to get new or gently used clothing for the WSAS Clothes Closet. With winter coming, those coats, boots, mittens, or sweaters at the back of your closet can bring warmth to a current student. You can also donate unopened personal items. All donations are tax-deductible.

Donations can be dropped off or mailed to our Schneider Center office, or you can buy items from our AmazonSmile wish list. Learn more at wellesley.edu/studentsaid/donate/clothing.

LAUNCHING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

WSAS helps students access an unequalled education at Wellesley and allows them to remain in school and focus on their studies even when financial hardship strikes. Here are some of the ways your support helps students launch.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT:

In 2022–2023, WSAS pledged nearly \$1.4 million in tuition aid, along with \$140,000 in gift cards for textbooks and other learning materials. We also supported opportunities like internships, fellowships, and study abroad.

DRESSING FOR SUCCESS:

Along with the Clothes Closet, WSAS provides grants for warm clothes and for phys ed, recreation, and athletics (PERA) gear. Appropriate clothing helps students get to class and jobs in the winter, take advantage of Wellesley’s athletics programs, and present well for interviews.

MEETING NEEDS AS THEY ARISE:

In addition to emergency funds for students facing unexpected challenges, WSAS works with College offices to meet emerging needs through our Student Services Grants. As of Spring 2023, we have awarded 57 grants, totaling \$283,150 for innovative programs in areas such as food and nutrition access, support for first-generation students, career and graduate school preparation, mental health services, and more.

“I have been so amazed by your generosity each year during my Wellesley journey. It makes a big difference! Thank you so much.”

—2014 graduate

“I was not sure how to prepare for winter, I do have clothes for the cold, but not Wellesley cold. I did receive suggestions, but my family is not able to send me any money unfortunately.

—Winter Coat applicant

“Because we can respond quickly when a need arises, we’re able to provide aid when and where it will do the most good. WSAS is always there for students who need just a little help to succeed in school so they can take their place among tomorrow’s leaders.”

—Catherine Kefalas '89
WSAS Executive Director



If you would like to learn more about the extensive programming your donations have made possible - or to donate - please go to our website www.wellesley.edu/studentaid.

Please follow us on Instagram (www.instagram.com/wellesleysas) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/wellesleystudentsaid) to see how we are impacting students.



ON BEHALF OF THE GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS WSAS HAS SUSTAINED, WE EXTEND A HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL OF OUR DONORS. YOUR GENEROSITY NURTURES THE SEEDS OF STRONG WELLESLEY WOMEN AND PREPARES THEM TO FORGE THEIR OWN PATH TO THE FUTURE.





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