To the Class of 1959:

As the winter holidays approach, it is time to reflect on those groups who make possible the wonderful academic progress of Willamette’s College of Liberal Arts. Your reunion class is one of these groups.

The Class of 1959 gift, which is to be an endowed, rotating Chair in the undergraduate program, will add tremendous value and security to the University. This project represents a tangible indicator of how well we’re living up to our collective academic goals, and it serves the University in many ways.

The academic chair will enable us to invest directly – and perpetually – in projects that matter to our students. By providing high quality visiting faculty, the Class of 1959 Chair will sustain current programs and inform newly developing ones. The occupants of the Chair will bolster an already robust faculty that has become Willamette’s trademark among our peer institutions. With the additional programming funds provided by the gift, the faculty holding this Chair will be able to connect the Willamette community to inspiring leaders and events throughout the world.

One of the great assets of this program is its flexibility. Because you have set up a rotating Chair, we will be able to invest resources on a yearly basis where they are needed most. We will be well positioned to respond to changes in the world around us and be first in line to address new issues. Moreover, the funding you are providing, should you continue the admirable pace you have demonstrated, will fulfill an historic class goal for the University. You will truly raise the bar, and future reunion classes will have an ambitious precedent to live up to.

On behalf of the faculty, I would like to thank you for your foresight, your ambition, and your devotion to your alma mater. I have the distinct joy of working with our students and professors every day, and I am certain that your gift will inspire them and enhance the Willamette experience for many years to come.

Best regards,

Carol S. Long
Dean, College of Liberal Arts