

Williams Family Contributes to the Department



John P. Williams ('56) and Carol Ann Roberson Williams ('56) honor Dr. Kate Ellen Rogers when beginning scholarship in Kate's honor. Dean Litherland Smith and Chair Ruth Brent Tofle standing.

The Williams family has been loyal to our MU program since college years in the 1950's. The year was 1956 when John P. Williams graduated in Business-Accounting and Carol Ann Roberson Williams graduated in Home Economics. Carol Ann studied with Department Chair Kate Ellen Rogers and deeply admired Dr. Rogers' commitment to aesthetics and Modern Art. Years after Carol Ann's coursework, she continued to appreciate what she learned from Dr. Rogers. In 1997 Carol Ann honored Dr. Rogers with *the Carol Ann Williams / Dr. Kate Ellen Rogers Scholarship*. In the photo above, a luncheon was orchestrated for Carol Ann to say thank you in person to Professor and Chair Emerita Kate Ellen Rogers for instruction forty years earlier. The meaningful scholarship continues today.

The Williams family also began the first lectureship in the Department in 2003. The *Carol Ann Williams Lectureship in Design* supports an honored speaker to come to campus each year.

[Elizabeth Williams](#) is the daughter of John and Carol Ann Williams. A 1987 graduate, Elizabeth worked as an interior designer and then continued her education in art history to become a museum curator. Loyal to her alma mater, Elizabeth shares what she learned as an undergraduate at MU that is valuable to her current museum career. As reported in a 2013 *Vanguard* magazine article, "...project management, ability to conceptualize and organize spatial requirements and needs with regard to exhibition planning and installation, knowledge of historical and contemporary materials and their characteristics, knowledge of architectural history and principles, and understanding of construction techniques." Elizabeth is now the David and Peggy Rockefeller Curator of Decorative Arts and Design at the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD).