

Cassius S. Williams

Class of 1969:

I think homecoming is important to reconnect people with a university. I can remember back in the '70s, late '70s, I used to take off on Thursday and come to Raleigh and spend Friday, Saturday, and then go back home on Sunday. Homecoming back then was a big deal. It was a parade down Hillsborough Street, parties, and dances going on after the football game on Saturday night. Just such a great—and then, all of the sudden, it—that didn't happen any more for several years, and, and all of the schools around us were continuing to have homecoming traditions and, you know, the same kind of celebration at homecoming. And I just thought we were kind of missing the boat. So that's why I got really interested in trying to rehabilitate homecoming at NC State.

I'm a parade person anyway; I love parades. And I think it's an important part of a celebration like homecoming, to have a parade. And finally parades are back on Hillsborough Street, the way they should have been, the way they were years ago.

I think the continued connection with the universities is important because that's, that's what gave you your, your true start. That's what really prepared you for whatever successes you're having in life. And I think you owe your university that support and that continued connection.

Once you, you say that you went to NC State, there's an immediate bond.

I've been—I remember going to a baseball game in Saint Louis one Saturday evening. And I had on my NC State cap and two people in that huge crowd walked up to me and spoke to me and, you know, asked me about NC State and why I had that cap on and all

that. So they're just—their connections are all over the place, all over the world, of people who have some relationship or have had some relationship with NC State.