

Steve Graham '82, philanthropist who helped bring breaking to the Olympic Games



Graham breaking in 2016. Photograph courtesy of Silverback Bboy Events

His path to Paris: Graham, who competed with the men's skiing, track and field, and tennis teams at Williams, became involved with break dancing shortly after college, when some friends suggested he check out the scene in New York City. He learned some moves and began joining in with groups of dancers on the street, often while wearing a suit and tie from his day job as an analyst at Goldman Sachs.

The philosophy and English major encouraged others to join him from work, business school and, later, his family; he wanted his young children to learn. Now the CEO and senior managing principal of Graham Partners, he sponsors breaking events, competitions and dancers' highlight videos. Thanks to a connection he made within the International Olympic Committee, he's credited with helping to bring breaking to the 2024 Games.

On the scene: As a sponsor of the U.S. team, Graham traveled to Paris to soak up the excitement of the sport's premiere. He tells Williams Today that many of the athletes who competed were "elite world class"—including American Victor Montalvo, who earned the bronze—and was impressed with the staging, music and more handled by the international breaking community. He's says he's hopeful that the "Olympic shine" will secure a spot for breaking at future Games.