Tom and Carolyn Wiley Scholarship



1. Background of Carolyn and Tom Wiley

Carolyn grew up in Maryville, Missouri, on a farm that raised purebred Hampshire swine and crops. I was active in 4-H and had great county agents and home agents. I showed pigs at the St. Joseph Interstate Show and the Missouri State Fair. I also exhibited foods and clothing projects. Because of my 4-H experience I enrolled at MU and was planning to be a Home Extension Agent. Because of the influence of my aunt, Betty Burns, who was a high school home economics teacher, I changed my major after one year. I always wanted to go to MU. My father graduated in 1940 with a B.S. in Agriculture. My mother attended MU for two years as she had also attended Joplin Business College. Going to college was something that was expected. My maternal grandfather who lived in Southwest Missouri (Oronogo) sent 6 children to MU in the mid-1930's and 1940's. I think that was quite an accomplishment for that time. My degree in "Home Economics" Education was an opening to my first job in Hamilton, Missouri. Later I taught in the Ritenour School District in St. Ann, MO. Tom and I eventually moved to the Chicago area where I taught at Homewood-Flossmoor High School and Eisenhower High School.

Tom grew up in Indiana and Illinois. His parents were active in farming. His father was a swine and cattle herdsman for various breeders. Because of his father's occupation the family moved often. Tom attended Columbia City, Indiana high school and Purdue University. At Purdue he majored in Animal Science with a specialty in swine production. Because of finances Tom dropped out after 3 years and took a job with the Hampshire Swine Registry where he was a field man. He visited breeders, attended sales and state fairs representing the Hampshire Association. Carolyn and Tom met through his work with the Hampshire Association. Even though Purdue was Tom's college and his first love of schools, he came to know and love MU because of his sister in-laws and brother in-laws. At family gatherings talk of MU was always a major topic.

2. Memories

I remember how caring my professors were. They wanted me to succeed in their classes. After I graduated they still knew who I was and was interested in my teaching. I have fond memories of Helen Allen, Doris Saxon and Ed Metzen. I also worked for Dr. Dyer in the Animal Husbandry Department and met many other students and professors in the College of Agriculture. I always looked forward to going to work as that was a way for me to help my mother and father pay for my college education. I still had three sisters at home that they also sent to MU.

3. Reason for Starting the Scholarship

I became involved in the MU Alumni Association (MAA now) as the result of encouragement by George Walker, the director. I became involved in the HES alumni board which eventually led to my becoming President of MAA. I also served on the Jefferson Club Board. Through these groups I discovered how important scholarships are to the University. I had always donated money to HES and MAA prior to Tom's passing. With the advice of Nancy Schultz, I set up a scholarship to honor Tom and as a result my name was added since I had the MU connection.

4. Reason for the Rotation of Scholarship between three HES Departments

The scholarship is set up to rotate between three HES Departments. Three of my nieces have degrees from these departments. This is a way to honor their accomplishments at MU.

Shawn (Dinsdale) Milne has a degree in Architectural Studies
Angie (Holsinger) McDaniel has a degree in Textile and Apparel Management
Stacy (Holsinger) Kutter has a degree in Human Development and Family Studies (Child Life Major)