Janet Bray Scholarship
for Hospitality and Tourism Management

Janet Bray grew up in southwest Tippecanoe County and graduated from Southwestern High School. She worked at Purdue University most of her life. Although she had no children, as coordinator of graduate students in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM), she quickly “adopted” HTM graduate students as “her kids.”

Janet was also co-editor of HTM’s Boilerplate newsletter. A quote from Janet in the newsletter’s May 1997 issue offers some insight into the value she put on student internships: “An internship gives students a chance to experience a variety of areas through rotation in order to get an overall view of the business instead of limiting them to one position as a typical job would. Employers see more value in an internship than a job that a student held while in college.”

Janet loved music and played piano and a small organ. She was also a great cook! Growing up on a farm with her twin sister and younger sister, she learned to work hard and be responsible. While working at Purdue, she observed students who struggled to pay for college expenses. Upon retiring from Purdue in 2011, she planned to help ease HTM students economic burden by means of small scholarships.

Unfortunately, Janet passed away due to health challenges in January 2013, before she could complete the necessary scholarship paperwork. As her sisters, we wanted to make Janet’s dream come true. To honor her and her desire to help HTM students, we established an HTM scholarship in Janet’s name in February 2014.

Submitted by Janet’s sisters: Judith Kakuk and Kathy Sims, 6/1/2015