When I was an undergraduate at Purdue in 1955, the tuition was a few hundred dollars. Room and board and books were my major expenses. By today’s standards, these expenses would seem modest, but for someone in my circumstance it was major. My living expenses were kept in line by living in the Glenwood Cooperative House. I also qualified for some academic scholarships and this helped immensely.

My parents helped me as best they could by taking out a small interest bearing loan. My father’s income came from driving a school bus route and from our small family farm. I was next to the youngest of twelve children. We were well cared for and had everything we needed. Church on Sunday was a must – and our family provided quite the sight as all the children followed mom down the church isle. I graduated from Purdue in three and half years and did my graduate work both at Purdue and Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. After all the family expenses there wasn’t much left. It was understood that I would pay off the loan for my education. I accomplished this with the salary from my first teaching job.

In today’s environment, where tuition and living expenses are in the thousands of dollars, I know there will be students who need assistance just as I did. In October 2003, my husband Ben (M’59) and I established a scholarship in my name. I believe it is important to help people satisfy their need to succeed. My Purdue education played a major role in helping me with my need to be successful. It is my hope that my scholarship will help in producing successful Purdue graduates who will be as grateful for their Purdue education as I am.