

The Home Economics Class of 1968 Freshmen Scholarship



Judi Merkel (HHS'68) (center) with her family

My Purdue journey was indeed a meaningful one, filled with many fond memories. I dearly loved my major in Foods with the “newest and latest” always being unveiled and presented. Included in my Purdue experiences was twirling the baton with the Purdue All-American Marching Band and even performing at the 1967 Rose Bowl, plus the Tournament of Roses Parade. Being crowned Miss Purdue in 1967 provided the wonderful opportunity to represent the university in the Miss Indiana Pageant. Meeting my future husband at Purdue was indeed an extra special bonus for we will celebrate 50 years of marriage in January 2018.

We are a Purdue Family. I graduated in 1968 and retired after 15 years as a Purdue Extension Educator in 2008. My husband Mark graduated in 1967 with a BS from the College of Agriculture. Our daughter Angie graduated in 1991 with a BS from the College of Health and Human Sciences (retail management major) and our granddaughter Madeline is currently a student in the College of Pharmacy.

My life has been so blessed and it was my time to give back. The Class of 1968 celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 1993. I communicated with class members to see if we could establish a scholarship to recognize our graduation milestone. The Class of 1968 united together and raised funds to establish this scholarship in December 1999.