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The Irving & Sylvia Genet Scholarship program is a testament to the long legacy of support for education by the Genet family. After earning her degree, Macarena Rufin studied fine arts at Parsons New School for Design in New York City and is now finishing a master’s degree in art therapy at the School of Visual Arts. Rufin was able to continue pursuing her love for educating children thanks to the scholarship from Phil Genet. Rufin, BSEd ’09, explained, “It was my invaluable experience in the School of Education that inspired me to focus on the mental health of the children I was working with on a more individualized basis.”

After earning her degree, Rufin studied fine arts at Parsons New School for Design for a year and is now finishing a master’s degree in art therapy at the School of Visual Arts. "I am looking forward to empowering my students through the creative process,” she added.

The Genet family has enjoyed a close relationship with the University of Miami through the generations. In the past 65 years, 11 members of Irving and Sylvia Genet’s family have graduated from the university, including two from the School of Education. “Our parents have a long legacy of support for education,” said Donna Genet, AB ’65, MA ’69, who received the Dade County Public Schools’ Outstanding High School Teacher Award in 1988. Reflecting on the $100,000 Irving and Sylvia Genet Endowed Scholarship, Donna’s brother Phil Genet, AB ’71, said, “We are very proud of the school. Because my wife Cheryl and I live in the San Francisco Bay area, we can’t get to Miami as frequently as we would like. But we are very pleased with the school’s emphasis on wellness and prevention of problems. It’s a true joy to give to the university.”
Soon after Connie McGee began teaching English in Dade County public schools in 1984, she attended an inspirational professional development program: The Zelda Glazer Summer Writing Institute sponsored by the School of Education. She soon became a close friend of Eveleen Lorton, who guided the institute for more than two decades, until her retirement in 2010.

“Dr. Lorton was one of my mentors,” McGee said. “She encouraged us to build our professional skills by going to local, state, and national meetings.” McGee took her advice and served as president of the Dade County Council of Teachers of English for a year.

“One summer, my husband Bob and I decided to do something for Dr. Lorton,” said McGee. “We decided to set up a travel fund so students would be able to attend professional meetings and interact with their colleagues around the country.”

Now, the Eveleen Lorton Travel Awards continue to broaden the professional horizons of students and faculty. As McGee said, “Attending conferences and workshops allows you to learn and share knowledge and best practices that will lead to better-prepared teachers and students in all our classrooms.”
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Student Appreciates Welch/Strong Scholarship

Mau-rer said. “It was an incredible help in allowing me to do what I wanted to do.”

Back in 2005, Welch and Strong set up an endowed scholarship in the School of Education with a $100,000 donation in honor of their families. “My experience as a student teacher at Miami Edison Senior High School fully prepared me for my teaching experience in the City of Boston,” said Welch at the time. “The University of Miami always treated me as an individual while attending and stayed in contact with me throughout my years as an alumnus.”

Strong became a Hurricanes fan after attending a number of Boston College – Miami football games with Welch. “One time we flew down to the University of Miami to attend a Florida State game, and I gave Robert a tour of the campus, including the classrooms,” Welch said. “He was so impressed that he decided to adopt the university as his school, too.”

Now, Welch and Strong attend the school’s annual scholarship-donor recognition program. “It’s a highlight every year,” said Welch. “I love meeting the awardees, talking to them about their aspirations, and knowing they’re on the right course.”

Learn How You Can Leave a Legacy to the School of Education

The Office of Estate and Gift Planning at the University of Miami has a new website: www.miami.edu/plannedgiving. It is filled with information about how you can help the University of Miami School of Education continue its mission well into the future and leave your legacy by making a planned gift, no matter what stage of life you are in.

You will find information about all of the planned giving vehicles, articles of interest regarding estate and financial planning in general, and even quizzes to test your know-how on a variety of topics.

The university is excited at the launch of the new site and encourages everyone to visit it and learn more about how a planned gift can help combine financial, personal, and philanthropic goals to support the School of Education. If you have any comments or questions about the new site, or about planned giving in general, please contact Cynthia Beamish, executive director of the Office of Planned Giving at the University at (305) 284-1527 (toll-free (800) 529-6935), or at cbeamish@miami.edu. We appreciate your support!