Rick Delaney (BS, Business Administration, ’82) of Powell, Ohio, has created an endowed scholarship in honor of his wife, Dr. Carol J. Greco-Delaney, and her parents, Gene and Jean Greco.

Delaney’s experience with his father-in-law’s diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease prompted his commitment for social workers and their mentors in the field of gerontology. As a result, he established the Dr. Carol J. Greco-Delaney Endowed Scholarship which will benefit students interested in studying gerontology in a medical or non-medical setting, specifically students involved in patient care or caregiver training.

Inspired by his own parents and their commitment to social justice, Delaney has been involved in social work activities throughout the community for more than 30 years. The Dr. Carol J. Greco-Delaney Scholarship, established in November 2009, honors his wife, Carol, her siblings and her mother, Jean, for their steadfast love to provide daily care for their father and husband. The family has bonded behind Jean, who is the primary caregiver for her husband, and made it a priority to ensure her well-being as well.

“Part of the difficulty is in how to keep Carol’s mom healthy, happy, spirited and at peace,” says Delaney. “If we aren’t confident in how to nurture new life circumstances and cultivate good, supportive contacts with trained specialists in ways that maintain a physically- and mentally-healthy environment for a loving couple, then we’ll witness heartbreak that will thread itself through the family. Social workers provide that support.”

The Greco-Delaney Scholarship enhances an already strong program in gerontological social work at the college. Four faculty members make it the focus of their research, teaching, and service, with specializations ranging from wellness to end of life issues; from family and professional caregiving to civic engagement for older adults. Tom Gregoire, interim dean at the College of Social Work, is proud of its focus on eldercare and pleased with the establishment of this student support fund. He says, “Through their research and teaching our faculty are making a real difference for elders and their families on both a local and national level. Through their gifts leaders such as Rick Delaney and his wife Carol advance the opportunities for excellent students to be the difference that so many elders and families need”.

The first grant from this new scholarship will be awarded for the 2010-11 academic year at the College’s annual Social Work Scholarship Awards Luncheon in May 2010. If you would like also to support this fund, www.giveto.osu.edu/SocialWork.