

# From Scholarship to Friendship

Summer 2018



In the fall of 2017, Isabella Knapp '20 became only the second recipient of Jane Presser's award, The Clifford V. Presser and Jane Gullett Presser '47 Endowed Scholarship

Fund, and says,

“Ever since receiving this scholarship, Jane and I have become pen pals, and I'd consider her one of my most honored mentors.”

While Jane also established two charitable gift annuities and a planned gift with the University, her deep-rooted love for education is why she so passionately supports students like Isabella who still believe in the life of an educator.

Jane taught elementary education from places like small-town New Jersey to Fukuoka, Japan. She spent five years in Maple Shade, New Jersey, two years working closely with the children of United States Air Force members in Japan and France, ten years in Michigan and she finished her career in Collingswood, New Jersey.

With more than 30 years in a classroom, Jane is overwhelmingly familiar with the struggles and demands that sometimes come with being an educator. She's been able to offer guidance t as one future teacher avidly learns the craft.

“Throughout my sophomore year,” said Knapp, “Jane has been there to give me advice about my classes, my extracurriculars and really anything that is troubling me. She can always see the positive in any situation.”

Jane earned her master's degree in education from Temple University and credits her value for higher education philanthropy to her late husband, Cliff.

“We always talked about giving back to Rowan,” said Jane. “He was instrumental in my decision—which was an easy one, really. It's important to me that students still want to be teachers. I wanted to help somebody else become an educator because you must always remember, how many people have helped you?”

Just as Jane remembers Ethel Merriman as a mentor during her time as a student, Isabella will remember Jane.