

Ralph and Luella Foulk Scholarship

A southwestern Ohio couple, who combined diverse careers in railroad property protection and hospital and private duty nursing, provided for a scholarship fund at Goshen College before their deaths in 1985.

The resource, now available to Nursing Students, was set up by Ralph and Luella Foulk, formerly of DeGraff, Ohio. Established as a charitable gift annuity agreement, the fund became operational upon their deaths and is called the Ralph and Luella Foulk Scholarship Fund.

Both Ralph and Luella lived full lives that they described as “interesting and rewarding”. Ralph worked for 25 years with the New York Central (now Penn Central) security division, and Mrs. Foulk worked as a nurse for 44 years, including part-time hospital service and “specializing.”

While Ralph would be on police duty in Bellefontaine, Indianapolis, or St. Louis, Luella would fill in at the hospital, working in any department or ward and on any shift.

Dedicated to the profession of nursing, she preferred no one part of the hospital or assignment to another. Her motivation stemmed, she said, from the meaning of a favorite Bible verse which impressed her as a young woman in high school in Smithville, Ohio, and a member of the Oak Grove Mennonite Church. The special verse is Matthew 25:40: “Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Luella received her nursing training in the mid-1920s at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital before she was married. After graduation, she worked in the outpatient department four years.

She joined the GC faculty in 1922, becoming the school’s first college nurse. She worked one year, and in exchange for her services as a registered nurse, she received free tuition.

After retiring, the Foulks enjoyed a full life that included wintering in Florida and participating in Airstream rallies. Ralph was an avid baseball fan and Luella a needlework enthusiast. They were both members of the DeGraff United Methodist Church.

Through the charitable gift annuity, the Foulks wished to help young persons. “We are happy that we will be able to help some Goshen College nursing students who require financial assistance,” Luella said.

J. Lawrence Burkholder, president of the College when the gift annuity was established, said “Their action is as much a tribute to the College as to the enjoyment and satisfaction they have found in being of service to the needs of others.”

Please send a letter of appreciation to:

Ralph and Luella Foulk Scholarship
% Financial Aid Office
Goshen College
1700 S Main St
Goshen, IN 46526

The Financial Aid Office will forward your letter to the donor or the donor’s family.

Your thank-you letter may be either typed or a handwritten note (neat and legible!). Please write your responses to the following points in the first person and in complete sentences. See examples below, but use your own words! Use a salutation: Dear _____ and a closing: Sincerely, Thank you, or With gratitude (or something similar).

1. **Tell about your areas of interest in your field of study.**

Example: I am interested in better understanding how humans alter the sustainability of our resources, as well as how we understand our place in the biosphere. As we continue to manage and construct our natural environment, it's important to scope out the full impact of our decisions and to see how we can improve our policies to better the environment.

2. **Do you have plans/hopes/dreams for what you would like to do once you complete your degree?**

Example: After I have completed my degree, I would like to continue on in research biology through a masters and, potentially, a doctorate degree. My dream is to be one of the three biologists on Canada's Species at Risk Act Board. I would love to aid in the preservation of species for future generations.

3. **How has this award made a difference for you in your time at Goshen?**

Example: This award has made for a much less stressful student experience for me. It has allowed me to focus my spare time on extracurricular activities, and not to have to worry about carrying a part time job. This freedom has given me the chance to volunteer in labs and perform in productions, both of which I love to do.

4. **Do you have a message for the donor(s) or family representatives of your award?**

Example: Thank you so much for your donation to my studies. (OR) I am very thankful to be the recipient of the _____ Scholarship. This award has allowed me the freedom to experience as much as I can while I'm at Goshen. I hope that one day I am able to make a similar impact on a student.