Robab Kellogg: Student Investor

Robab Kellogg uses the title “Student Investor” on her nametag at the annual Peoria Regional Nursing Program Honors Dinner. Others might use the words “Mentor,” “Inspiration,” “Community Learner,” or “Life-long Learner,” and they would all be accurate.

But Kellogg chooses to describe herself as a student investor because when she was on the UIC College of Nursing faculty, she supported her students academically, and in retirement, she supports them financially through the Kellogg Family Peoria Nursing Scholarship Fund.

“Robab built a community of healthcare resources for the students by bringing those resources into the classroom or sending the students out to them,” says Kathleen Baldwin (PhD ’92, MS ’78), a former student of Kellogg’s and now director of the UIC College of Nursing Peoria Regional Program. “She felt it was her professional duty to get involved in the community, and she instilled that sense of community in her students.”

Kellogg earned her bachelor of science in botany from the University of Illinois, with plans to do research related to farming. But “to collect a little financing” before going on to graduate school, she worked at Cook County Presbyterian Hospital. “And that’s where I decided to become a nurse instead of a botanist,” she said.

Kellogg received her RN from the Cook County School of Nursing and two years later, with a scholarship in her pocket, attended the University of Minnesota, where she received her master’s degree in public health nursing in 1951. She went on to work with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Iran (1953–56) and then South Korea (1957–60), where she helped establish public health programs where none had existed before.

In 1974, soon after UIC received a federal grant to develop regional nursing programs around the state, Kellogg was among the founding faculty members who were instrumental in the development of the Peoria Regional Nursing Program.

Although she retired in 1994, Kellogg continues to help nursing students reach their goals through the Kellogg Family Peoria Nursing Scholarship Fund. She endowed the fund in 1998 because “I could see how some students were struggling to finish their degrees,” and she appreciated the scholarships available to her when she was going through school. “I thought it was time I repay some of that debt.” While it bears the Kellogg name, the fund is growing through contributions—large and small—from alumni who appreciate their educational experiences and who respect Robab Kellogg as a mentor and supporter.

—Evelyn Cottle Raedler

For more information about creating an endowed scholarship fund or including a bequest to the College in your will, please contact Nancy Herman, director of advancement, at 312.996.1736 or nhberman@uic.edu.