



*The  
Connolly-Blewitt  
Family Scholarship*



William G. Connolly



Elizabeth M. Blewitt



Loretto D. Connolly



THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

# *The Connolly-Blewitt*

**T**he Connolly-Blewitt Family Scholarship was established in 2006 by William G. Connolly Jr., '59, and Clair C. Connolly in memory of his parents, William G. and Loretto D. Connolly, and his maternal aunt, Elizabeth M. Blewitt.

The scholarship is awarded annually on the basis of academic excellence and financial need with preference given to the children of current or retired postal employees and schoolteachers.

It honors the memory of William G. Connolly, who was born in Scranton in 1903. He attended St. Thomas High School from 1918 to 1920, then, with his father ill and unable to work, held a series of clerical jobs until 1924, when he returned to St. Thomas, graduating in 1926. While still a student, he began working after school as a postal clerk.

He attended Canisius and St. Bonaventure Colleges but left school in 1929, in the early days of the Depression, and became a full-time postal employee. He retired in 1966 as superintendent of the post office in Dickson City, Pa., but in 1970 became manager of the post office at Marywood College, retiring again in 1977.

"We are rich," he liked to say as he surveyed his grandchildren, "and someday we may have money." He died in 1982.

Loretto Dorothy Connolly was born in Pittston in 1903 and graduated from St. John's High School there. In 1927, she earned her bachelor's degree from Marywood with a notation that she was qualified to teach English, Latin, Greek, mathematics, social studies and shorthand.

Before her marriage in 1936, she taught school in Turkey Lane, N.Y., and Binghamton.

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For the next 37 years, she worked at home, raising four children and becoming a favored provisioner for hungry Jesuits and a renowned supplier of cookies to any waif within walking or toddling distance. She died in 1973.

Elizabeth Mary Blewitt was born in Pittston in 1897 and graduated from St. John's High School and Marywood, where she earned a bachelor's degree in 1921 with a major in Latin and a minor in English education.

She taught for two years in Shinglehouse, a tiny town in north central Pennsylvania, and for two years at St. John's in Pittston before joining the faculty at Central High School in Scranton in 1924 as a teacher of math and Latin. She remained at Central for 37 years, mainly as a math teacher.

For a generation or more, to nieces, nephews, neighbors and passing acquaintances, she was a willing tutor on any subject that presented a homework challenge. Arithmetic, chemistry, English, French, geography, German, history, Latin, physics — no matter, she seemed to know it all and never failed to rescue the befuddled, often at the last minute.

In 1961, having returned to Marywood 10 years earlier to earn a master's degree in math education, she retired from Central High School and joined the Marywood faculty as a mathematics instructor. She taught there for a decade and died at 97 in 1994.

This is a scholarship intended for promising young people who may be rich but don't yet have money. It is given in the hope that when their moneyed days come they will remember to pay their debt.





*The generosity of alumni and friends who have endowed scholarships at The University of Scranton makes it possible to provide financial assistance for outstanding students who might not otherwise be able to pursue a college education. A named, endowed scholarship becomes a living tribute or memorial and allows the donor to participate in a unique way in the ongoing educational mission of The University of Scranton. Donors typically designate the type of students eligible for the scholarship and its permanent name or title. For more information, contact the University's Office of Institutional Advancement.*

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