



November 19, 2013

MSCC Foundation Announces Threm Memorial Scholarship

Mid-South Community College's Foundation has added another scholarship to its growing list of privately-funded awards.

The Muriel Vial Threm and Don Threm Sr. Memorial Scholarship, established by Twilla and Don Threm Jr., is open to MSCC students who are seeking associate of arts or associate of applied science degrees.

"Neither of my parents went to college, but they always emphasized the importance of higher education while encouraging their children and grandchildren to pursue it," said Don Jr., a 15-year employee at MSCC. "I don't even recall making a conscious decision that I would go to college; it was just always expected."

"As a 33-year resident of eastern Arkansas, however, I realize that expectation is not

always communicated in this region. My wife and I are hoping this scholarship will encourage more people to take advantage of what Mid-South Community College has to offer. I feel the creation of this award in my parents' memory is an appropriate tribute to their belief in higher education."



The late Don Threm Sr. and Muriel Vial Threm

Reading novels, newspapers, and magazines provided many hours of pleasure for Don Sr. and Muriel. Another source of entertainment was their morning “Scribbage” toss-a-word game, and they kept a tally of their wins and losses on the dining room calendar. While Muriel always suspected she was the smarter of the two, Don Sr. ultimately won more games.

Muriel, who once wrote a weekly news column for “The Mountain Echo” in Yellville, Ark., also penned and keyed (on a manual typewriter) a historical novel. She never completed the work, and it is the desire of one granddaughter, an English major, to one day write an end to the story.

Don Sr. passed away in January 2005 and Muriel in May 2013. Born in Illinois, the Threms moved to California in the 1950s and went to work for Hughes Aircraft Company.

In 1967, Muriel’s concern of a possible devastating earthquake prompted the family to leave California. They purchased a resort on Bull Shoals Lake and traded life in the Los Angeles suburb of Manhattan Beach for life in the small town of Peel, Ark. When the business did not prove as lucrative as they had hoped, Don Sr. worked for Flexsteel Furniture Company in Harrison until his retirement. Don Sr. was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served on an aircraft carrier during World War II.

The four Threm children, who reside in Arkansas, Missouri, Colorado, and Minnesota, pursued higher education and currently work in the engineering, marketing/public relations, legal, and business professions. Six of the nine grandchildren have completed four-year degrees.

Don Jr. works as Publicity Coordinator at MSCC and has served for more than 10 years on the College’s Scholarship and Awards Committee. Twilla is a retired community college instructor.

The Threm scholarship focuses on assisting students who demonstrate financial need. The award can be applied toward tuition, fees, and/or books.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative high school or college grade-point average of 2.85 and must be enrolled in a minimum of nine credit hours per semester. Submission of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required to verify

financial need. Scholarship hopefuls must also provide a brief summary of their educational plans and goals.

To contribute to the Muriel Vial Threm and Don Threm Sr. Scholarship or to establish a new one, please contact Patti Coleman, MSCC Director of Advancement, at (870) 733-6764 or pdcoleman@midsouthcc.edu.

The Mid-South Community College Foundation, which administers more than 70 scholarships, also offers direct on-line giving through the College's website, www.midsouthcc.edu (click on MSCC Portal, MSCC Foundation, and Give Now).

The MSCC Foundation, Inc. is an independent charitable organization created to raise and oversee funds donated to MSCC in support of the college's efforts to meet the needs of Crittenden County. It operates under a tax exempt 501(c)(3) status.