

The Jean Kirby Broehl Scholarship Fund Established At Landmark College

By Mary Kukovich

A \$100,000 gift from a retired reading teacher and learning specialist has been used to establish The Jean Kirby Broehl Scholarship Fund, providing the opportunity for students in need to benefit from a Landmark College education.

Mrs. Broehl, whose own college education was interrupted by marriage and war,



A. BLAKE GARDNER

Jean Kirby Broehl

followed her husband, Wayne, to Dartmouth College in 1954 when he joined the faculty of the Tuck School of Business. She eventually completed her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois by transferring credit from classes she took at Dartmouth before it became co-ed. She holds the distinction of being the first woman to have credits transferred from Dartmouth.

She also earned a master's degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania and studied under Alice Garside at the Language Clinic at Massachusetts General Hospital, learning her Gillingham Program.

According to Mrs. Broehl, she first became aware of children with reading difficulties while working as a teacher's aide at Hanover Elementary School in New Hampshire. She was surprised to find that four of her fourth grade students were unable to read. "I knew they were perfectly capable, but for some reason they were not able to read. Remedial reading was not working," she said. "I thought it would be best to go to Boston and study the Gillingham program."

After learning the program "top to bottom," Mrs. Broehl went to Woodstock Elementary School in Vermont as a reading and learning specialist. When she discovered that more than one-third of the students needed tutoring, she recruited volunteers in the community and taught them how to be reading tutors. Within three years, all the Woodstock elementary students were reading at grade level or better. She continued to teach over the next decade with the same positive results. After retirement, she volunteered as a tutor, helping countless illiterate adults learn to read.

Mrs. Broehl said she learned about Landmark while reading the JOURNAL OF LEARNING DISABILITIES and continued to follow the school over the years. Landmark, she said, "was doing it right — small classes, making adaptations to meet young people's needs." She decided to donate money to establish a scholarship.

"I thought maybe I could help some students get the kind of innovative educational support that only a school like Landmark can offer," she said.