Colleen Rae Bryn left a positive mark in this world. Colleen was born and raised in Devils Lake as the only child of Raymond and Evelyn Bryn. Friends and classmates remember her as a bright and capable woman with a quiet sense of humor. Schoolmate, Irene Glickson Rossman, enjoyed a life-long friendship with Colleen that began in the third grade. Irene has many fond memories of fun times together and Colleen’s great sense of humor. She and other classmates remember Colleen as being extremely bright but always modest about her special gifts.

Colleen graduated from Devils Lake High School in 1968 and from the University of North Dakota in 1972 with a degree in education. Searching for her professional niche, she briefly taught school and worked for the FBI.

In 1975, she began working as a “temp” at Land O’ Lakes, Inc. based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The company is the second-largest cooperative in the nation and does business in every state and sixty countries. Colleen’s talents were appreciated, and she quickly became an important player in the formation of the International Development Division of Land O’ Lakes, officially launched in 1981. In a memorial in the Land O’ Lakes publication International Outlooks, the editorial staff wrote, “Colleen was our encyclopedia, remembering almost every project the division has undertaken, the people involved, and interesting facts about each project. She also served as our communications specialist, putting final touches on the division’s proposals and other important communications.” The job provided Colleen opportunities to travel to places like Russia and Poland and to host foreign delegations to corporate headquarters. Her quiet tenacity and special intellect were hallmarks of her thirty-five-year career at Land O’ Lakes.

Colleen used her free time to maintain linkages with family and friends from Devils Lake and for personal travel adventures. Though her life was cut short by illness, it was a life well lived.

Colleen’s parents, Ray and Evelyn Bryn, want this endowed scholarship to serve individuals who, like Colleen, are intellectually curious and eager to find ways to use their education to make the world a little better for all.