

Memories of Hannah live through other's dreams



When little Hannah Fehn died in July 2002 in Children's Hospital of Philadelphia at the age of six weeks, word of her death moved quickly among the staff of the College. She was Heather and Jack Fehn's first child, and the young couple was well known on campus. Word that the cause of death was a genetic disorder known as spinal muscular atrophy made it all the more tragic and cast a terrible shadow over the Fehns' future hopes of parenthood.

Within days of Hannah's passing, the Fehns made plans to honor their child by establishing a scholarship. One factor in the decision, they said, was their deep gratitude for the sensitive and loving care the nurses attending Hannah had shown during her short life. One of them, in fact, was a graduate of TCNJ's School of Nursing.

Word that the Hannah Grace Fehn Memorial Scholarship Fund would be established to support nursing students at the College prompted a campus-wide outpouring of contributions. The Fehns have a wide circle of friends in the community; Jack is in charge of instruments and controls for the campus power plant, and Heather, a member of the Classes of 1994 and 1996, is executive assistant to President Gitenstein. By this spring, total gifts have exceeded \$20,000, just short of the \$25,000 needed to establish a permanent endowment.

Already, two students have been beneficiaries of the scholarship and are aware of the circumstances that made their financial aid possible. Each has been presented with what seems likely to be an unforgettable memento of the award: a fuzzy, baby-sized "Tigger," the animal from "Winnie the Pooh" that was Hannah's treasured toy.

Readers will be pleased to know that Heather and Jack have since become the

parents of a handsome and healthy son, Harrison. Their celebration followed a very carefully controlled conception to ensure optimum genetic conditions to prevent their second child from being born with Hannah's disorder.

Since then, Heather and Jack have kept in close contact with the geneticists in Philadelphia. They give frequent talks to student geneticists and have recounted their family experience in detail for popular magazines.

This spring, the third TCNJ nursing student will be named a winner of the Hannah Grace Fehn Memorial Scholarship.

One factor in the decision, the Fehn's said, was their deep gratitude for the sensitive and loving care the nurses attending Hannah had shown during her short life. One of them, in fact, was a graduate of TCNJ's School of Nursing.

Heather, Jack, and Harrison Fehn



© 2006 John Davis Photography

