“After graduating in 1978, I was slowly reeled in to become a fisherwoman of others. I’m still swimming and doing all I can to give back in reverence of what was first given to me.”

—Nancy Collum, Former UTC Alumni Council President

midst of everything on campus.”

That sense of place and shared purpose has never left Collum. Living just blocks away from campus in Chattanooga’s Historic Fort Wood District, she’s visited every state but Hawaii and traveled the world, but there’s no place like UTC. She wants to keep it that way for future students, so she has invested a portion of her retirement plan in UTC. “I hope a student who is smart and trying to discover their own path will have the opportunity to grow and thrive, like I did.”

“I am a regular person with a regular job, without a family fortune, and I can still help a student,” she says.

Quietly working behind the scenes, Collum’s seeds of loyalty to her alma mater have been sown as the UTC Alumni Council President and the UT National Alumni Association Vice President. She’s been a member of the UT Women’s Council, Board of Governors, University of Chattanooga Foundation, Chancellor’s Roundtable, and the UTC Athletics Board. She has served on the advisory board for accounting and finance at UTC and as the finance advisor for Alpha Delta Pi, which resulted in the well-deserved recognition of Outstanding Greek Alum in 1992.

Her dedicated service continues to rub off on the rest of the Chattanooga community at the Walter E. Boehm Birth Defects Center and the United Way of Greater Chattanooga, where she received its Community Investment Service Award in 2002. In 2008, she was humbled by being named a Woman of Distinction by the Chattanooga chapter of the American Lung Association.

“The hook was set the moment I arrived on campus,” she says. “After graduating in 1978, I was slowly reeled in to become a fisherwoman of others. I’m still swimming and doing all I can to give back in reverence of what was first given to me.”

Ann Skadberg (UTK ’62) and Nancy Collum (UTC ’78) (second and third from the left) are all smiles during this year’s UT Alliance of Women Philanthropists Symposium. Long before they met, Collum felt connected to Skadberg, the daughter of former UT President Andy Holt, because she was an Andy Holt Scholar. The scholarship paid for Collum’s tuition and books as a business administration major at UTC.

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