Lynn Riley Neil grew up around the NNC campus. Her parents, John and Dorcas Riley, pastored eight years at College Church. Her father served 21 years as president of Northwest Nazarene College. While a student at NNC, Lynn was active in student government and in publications. In 1961 she graduated first in her class. She taught high school English for two years in Kansas City, then raised her family and served as a pastor’s wife for the next 18 years. In 1981 she returned to NNC to teach in the English Department. Over the next five years she completed the M.A. and Ed.D. degrees. Her responsibilities as an English faculty member are in composition and English language courses.

Ralph Edward Neil was born in NNC’s Fine Arts Building when it served as Samaritan Hospital. His parents and grandparents were life-long Nazarenes who loved and sacrificed for NNC. Ralph entered NNC as a freshman in 1957. He was active in student government, serving as Student Body President his senior year. He graduated in 1961 and earned his Masters of Divinity from Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1963. Over the next 18 years he successfully pastored in Cle Elum, Washington; Eugene, Oregon; and Portland, Oregon. Ralph took graduate studies in philosophy at the University of Oregon and completed a D. Min. at NTS in 1983. He answered the invitation to join NNC’s Division of Philosophy and Religion in 1981; it is a continuation of his ministry.

Ralph and Lynn were married the weekend they graduated from college. They have served as a team in ministry and in Christian college education over these years. They have two sons, David and John; a daughter-in-law, Connie; and two granddaughters, Sheila and Heather. A granddaughter, Katie, died in 1991.

Generations on both sides of this family have loved the Lord and NNC. This scholarship was established to help worthy students experience the same rich heritage of scholarship in the context of Christian commitment.

**Criteria for awarding of scholarship**

1. Recipients will normally be English or English Education majors.
2. Recipients are to be persons of Christian commitment and worthy character who show promise of future service in God’s Kingdom.
3. The award will be granted on the basis of scholarship and financial need.
4. Recipients must be full-time and have a minimum 3.0 GPA.
5. Nominations will be made by the English faculty or by a member of the Neil family for approval by the Scholarship Committee.