Support the
Thomas R. Shirley, Sr.
Scholarship
Growing up in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia, as did his father, Philadelphia University Director of Athletics and Women’s Basketball Coach Tom Shirley understands well the sense of duty and love of family and community that sustained his dad, Tom Shirley, Sr., for the 80 years of his life.

The idea of establishing the scholarship began in 2008 as a tribute to Coach Shirley’s years of service to the University. “But I knew in my heart it should be about my dad; to honor him, a man who never finished high school yet worked every day of his life to make a better life for his children and who served his country in World War II,” Shirley said.

Contributions to the scholarship have come from friends, associates, former team members and members of the Shirley family (his mom made the first gift) in small denominations and in large checks. They flowed in and continue to do so as the fund grows. More than $50,000 has been raised to date and scholarship awards have begun to be made to deserving students.

The scholarship is need based and earmarked for a resident of Roxborough, Manayunk or East Falls, as the first-choice recipient. “I had a very strong relationship with my dad and the scholarship is a legacy for him and our family,” notes Shirley. “It is gratifying to think a student will benefit from a scholarship bearing his name.”
“My husband, Steve ‘03, M’04, and I both had a great experience as student-athletes at Philadelphia University. We received an education that successfully prepared us for our careers, we participated in intercollegiate athletics, and made life-long friendships. These opportunities were made possible through the generosity of others, as we both received scholarships. As alumni, we have made giving back a priority so today’s students can benefit from the same experiences we enjoyed.

“We are especially pleased to support the Thomas R. Shirley, Sr. Scholarship, as I played basketball for Tom Shirley. This scholarship is a wonderful way to honor Coach Shirley and his father, and to support future generations of students at PhilaU. Please join Steve and me in supporting this scholarship!”

Jean-Marie Reilly Torpey ’04, M’05

About Philadelphia University
Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,600 students enrolled in more than 60 undergraduate and graduate programs. As the model for professional university education, the University prepares students to be leaders in their professions in an active, collaborative and real-world learning environment infused with the liberal arts. Philadelphia University includes the innovative College of Design, Engineering and Commerce; the College of Architecture and the Built Environment; and the College of Science, Health and the Liberal Arts.

For more information, go to www.PhilaU.edu.