

To the Family of Dr. Ralphenia Pace.

One always remembers their 1st ... and Dr. Ralphenia Pace was my first Faculty Advisor when I was a Freshman at Tuskegee Institute in 1971. In those days before the widespread use of computers, she assisted me in navigating my new way of life on campus. Even though I was a 2nd generation college student, I was totally unprepared for college and campus life. She assisted me with changing my major from Dietetics to Food Science so that I could increase my scholarship and work study funding opportunities.

During my Freshman year at Tuskegee, I remember being exempted from a 2nd semester Math class, but she advised me to go ahead and take it anyway. I learned a lesson that has served me to this day, and that is how to evaluate an issue and make the best decision for me at the time. It was a simple lesson that was built upon over the many years that I have known Dr. Pace. When I entered Medical School and left the Food & Nutritional Sciences career field, it was Dr. Pace who leaned-in and invited me to speak to her students who also wanted to follow my same path. Not everyone agreed with that and even I was not sure at the time that I should do that. Now I know it was the right thing to do, and she was a trailblazer who supported the goals of all of her students. She was inclusive and I accepted that. I hope that the University will create more ways to assist retired faculty and Alumni to stay better in touch and connected.

As a result of knowing and working with Dr. Pace I established my family's scholarship program at Tuskegee which represents 3 generations of TU Alumni in the families of my husband and I: The Jackson Hicks Endowed Scholarship Fund is still being funded by my family and supporters and it is our hope that it will continue to support the educational success of future Food and Nutritional Science students at Tuskegee University.

My family and I want to extend our condolences for your loss, but it has my honor to have known and loved Dr. Ralphenia Pace. I will always remember her!

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