Occupational therapy was a great love of the late Pauline Cid Schultz’s life, according to her children. After graduating from the Program in Occupational Therapy in 1944, she spent many decades working in the field. In her estate, she provided for the Pauline Cid Schultz Occupational Therapy Scholarship to make it possible for others to enter the profession.

Family members — son Gordon Burkhart-Schultz, his wife, Karolyn, and his sister, Korine — later visited the School of Medicine to formally establish the scholarship. At the time, Schultz’s children had no idea they would find a home for their father’s life work as well.

Carolyn Baum, PhD, the Elias Michael Executive Director and professor of OT, neurology and social work, had planned an entire day of presentations and activities to thank the family for its support. Baum and other researchers spoke on the occupational therapy program’s initiatives and its collaborative, multidisciplinary approach. That’s when Burkhart-Schultz realized how perfectly the program’s methodology fit with the still unfinished work of his late father, psychologist Karl V. Schultz, PhD.

“We were in the conference room and Gordon asked if we could talk in the hall,” Baum said.

Burkhart-Schultz also remembers the moment: “How everything just came together was, to me, actually astonishing.”

By chance, Burkhart-Schultz had a copy of a values-based personality test his father had been developing for decades.

“Developing this instrument was one of the most important things in dad’s life, and it would dominate many conversations,” Burkhart-Schultz said.

Karl Schultz died in 2006, but had left money in his estate to validate and complete the test, which measures how a person views activities in terms of importance and satisfaction. Schultz’s idea was that people ascribe importance to activities that do not truly satisfy them, which is how they end up in professions that make them unhappy.

“We showed my father’s work to Carolyn and her immediate take, within two minutes, was ‘This is totally unique,’” Burkhart-Schultz said.

Years earlier, Baum had developed a different assessment test — the Activity Card Sort (ACS) — now used by OTs worldwide to evaluate daily living activities. Combining the ACS with the Schultz Lifestyle Series might help OTs understand not just behavior but also motivation, Baum said. This depth of understanding would aid OTs in designing individualized programs and setting treatment goals.

Baum and former faculty member Lisa Connor, PhD, MSOT, now inaugural chair and professor of OT at Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health, presented “The Schultz Lifestyle Profile Series Instrument: Psychometric Properties and Relationship with Activity Participation” at the 16th International Congress of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists in June 2014. They are preparing to publish a paper.

Burkhart-Schultz is thrilled. “Having the fulfillment of my dad’s lifelong work converge with the love and passion of my mother’s life, in the way that it did, is quite special,” he said.