The Elinor Gollay Scholarship Fund was established in June 2016 by Elinor Gollay, MSW’71, PhD’77, along with her closest family and friends, to support students enrolled in the Master’s in Sustainable International Development Program at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management.

ELINOR GOLLAY has had two careers: one in public policy and a second in art and crafts. She worked for more than ten years at Abt Associates where she participated in a wide range of studies and managed several projects that included the deinstitutionalization of people with mental retardation; college accessibility guide for students with disabilities; and the federal definition of a developmental disability. After receiving her doctorate, she moved to New Mexico where she owned a consulting firm that worked primarily on disability-related topics for the federal government and several states.

When she closed her business, she served in several appointed positions for New Mexico Governor Tony Anaya: Director of Administrative Services and Director of Medicaid for the Human Services Department; and Director of Health Planning for
the Health Department. In those positions she managed two major health reform efforts.

She became a free-lance consultant after leaving state employment and worked on another statewide health reform project.

During her career in public policy and research she authored two books, several book chapters and articles.

Her second career began with opening Worldly Possessions, a store and gallery in Santa Fe, NM that sold art and craft from around the world. In the mid-90s she moved to Florida to take care of her mother. She traveled the world to research a book on the policy issues faced by crafts enterprises. But life intervened and the book will now be a memoir, telling the story of how researching crafts changed her life.

Throughout her life she has been active with and served on boards of organizations dealing with mental retardation, crafts, Middle East peace and a small aquarium.

She earned her undergraduate degree from Radcliffe College, her MSW and PhD from the Heller School.