Professor Cornelia (Connie) Whitener Perdreau is the Founder and Chairperson of the United Martin Family Scholarship Program. The program is open to UMF students who are descendants of Trasie, and are starting college or are enrolled in a graduate degree program in Medicine or Master's in Business Administration, the latter being the Malverse Martin Sr. Graduate Scholarship.

The Scholarship was established by Prof. Perdreau in 1993 when she announced its inception at the UMF Reunion in Columbus, Ohio, on the occasion of its 25th Silver Anniversary when she was the keynote speaker. Since that time, more than $100,000 in scholarships have been awarded to over 100 undergraduate and graduate students in our family.

Connie, a descendant in the lines of Moses and Ellen, is the daughter of Henry and Mazie Martin Whitener Johnson of Beacon, NY. Mazie was one of 16 children born to Robert and Dollie Martin of Jenkinsville, SC.

Connie received her undergraduate degree in French and Education from SUNY (State University of New York) Potsdam, and her graduate degrees from Ohio University. She served as Director of Study Abroad at Ohio University and later, after returning to Beacon as the caregiver to her mother, she served as Director of the English Language Program at SUNY New Paltz. The pinnacle of her career was being elected President of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the largest professional organization in the world devoted to international educational exchange. Articles about this achievement were featured in Ebony and Jet magazines. Connie has now retired as Director Emerita but remains actively engaged in her third act as a successful entrepreneur. She is also involved with her community, doing research on Hudson Valley Black History, and serving as a Trustee of the Beacon Historical Society. In addition, she was appointed by the mayor as a Commissioner of the Beacon Housing Authority.

Connie has one son, Maurice, an alumnus of Georgetown University and a professional artist and fashion designer.