



Living Legacies

ISSUE THREE | SPRING 2017

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY



Dr. Elbert C. Brinning, Jr. (at left) and his brother, Dr. Robert J. Brinning.

Living Legacies

Endowing a Passion for Basic Science

Elbert Calhoun Brinning, Jr. loved his career as a general practitioner in Essex County, New Jersey. A 1942 graduate of Syracuse University, Elbert attended the School of Medicine at Temple University and completed postgraduate studies at the School of Medicine and Surgery of the Navy. He became an internist after serving in the Navy during World War II. Following a long and fulfilling career, Elbert retired from medicine in the late 1980s. Devoted to his patients, he continued to provide consultations, free of charge, until his death at age 91.

An avid reader of medical and scientific journals, Dr. Brinning had a true passion for basic science and research. He believed in giving back to the scientific community, becoming a mentor to many young scientists and medical students. Education was extremely important to Elbert. He helped many family members earn degrees at various levels, including his beloved brother Robert, who was inspired to follow Elbert into a career of medicine.

Upon Elbert's death in October 2010, the Elbert C. Brinning, Jr. Trust was created via Elbert's estate to benefit several named

charitable organizations, including The Rockefeller University. Dr. Brinning had directed the Trust to establish professorships in fields that were of particular interest to him (e.g., chemistry, biology, molecular physics, mathematics), and to name the professorships in memory of his parents, Viola Ward and Elbert Calhoun Brinning.

At Rockefeller, the Brinning Professorship is held by a distinguished head of laboratory whose research focuses on bioinformatics, an interdisciplinary field that combines biology, mathematics, and physics. Dr. Eric D. Siggia, who heads the Laboratory of Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics, was appointed as the inaugural Viola Ward Brinning and Elbert Calhoun Brinning Professor in 2013.

By creating a named professorship at the University, Elbert Brinning made a generous commitment to scientific excellence at Rockefeller, helped to advance studies in areas of his specific interest, and honored the memory of his loving parents. Elbert's devotion to science, to family, and to helping others, will live on in perpetuity at Rockefeller University through the Brinning Professorship.



Living Legacies is a periodic series highlighting benefactors who made the enormously helpful decision to include The Rockefeller University in their estate plans. In sharing what they have done, we hope to honor their dedication, and also to demonstrate how planned gifts can have a transformative impact on biomedical research at Rockefeller.

For more information, please contact:

Vickie L. Lister

Senior Director, Planned Giving
(212) 327-8658
listerv@rockefeller.edu

The Rockefeller University
Office of Development
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10065