



Living Legacies

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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY



Living Legacies

Nurturing Outstanding Young Investigators

Brooke Astor, one of the nation's greatest philanthropists, headed the Vincent Astor Foundation for many decades. Brooke once commented, "I never let the foundation give to anything I did not see for myself." This led her to become deeply involved with many New York City institutions, including The Rockefeller University.

Named a Trustee at Rockefeller in 1972, Brooke was elected the institution's first ever Life Trustee in 1983. She remained affiliated with the University until her death in 2007. Throughout her lifetime, Brooke generously supported various initiatives at Rockefeller. Notably, she endowed three professorships at the University, currently held by Albert Lasker Awardee James E. Darnell, Jr., and Nobel Laureates Paul Greengard and Torsten Wiesel.

Most importantly, Brooke was keenly interested in nurturing young scientific talent, and loved meeting with Rockefeller's students. She cherished opportunities to hear firsthand about their studies and aspirations. When the Graduate Student Residences were renovated, the student lounge was named in her honor to acknowledge the special bond she shared with our pre-doctoral scientists.

Brooke also had a love for the youngest members of our community. She funded improvements to the University's Child and Family Center, Rockefeller's on-campus daycare program and pre-school. Her support helped relocate the Children's School to new, more spacious quarters and aided the construction of an Infant-Toddler Center.

In recognition of the many ways in which Brooke helped advance biomedical investigations and education at Rockefeller, she received the University's David Rockefeller Award in 1996. This award honors an individual from the University community who demonstrates enthusiasm for its scientists and a deep commitment to the progress of their research. Brooke also received an honorary degree from Rockefeller in 1984.

Wanting to provide for Rockefeller beyond her lifetime, Brooke made the decision to leave a generous bequest to the University in her will. This support plays a vital role in enabling the University to create a world-class environment that attracts the best and brightest scientific minds to Rockefeller. Over a decade after Brooke's passing, her bequest continues to support innovative research and young investigators.

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.

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