

# Living Legacies

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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY



*Marjorie Anderson Matheson  
with (from left) Drs. Sohail  
Tavazoie, Titia de Lange,  
and Agata Smogorzewska*

# Living Legacies

## Supporting the Next Generation of Scientific Leaders

**Marjorie “Mardi” Anderson Matheson** was an extraordinary woman. Compassionate, warm, and kind, Mardi was a cherished friend to many faculty and students at The Rockefeller University. She was intelligent and discerning, with a quick wit and thoughtful nature. Mardi was also a dedicated philanthropist and an ardent supporter of biomedical science.

Mardi became acquainted with Rockefeller in 2005, when she visited campus for the first time and had lunch with the University’s President Paul Nurse. The two instantly connected and a wonderful relationship formed between Mardi and the University.

A year later, in 2006, Mardi established the University’s Anderson Center for Cancer Research with a remarkably generous gift. This magnificent contribution continues to galvanize cancer studies at Rockefeller. The Anderson Center is a vibrant interdisciplinary hub that supports cancer-related investigations in a wide range of areas including cell and developmental biology, immunology, chemistry, genomics, and proteomics. It also oversees the Anderson Graduate and Postdoctoral Fellowships in Cancer Research, which are granted to talented young investigators working to advance understanding and treatment of this devastating disease.

Every summer, Mardi visited Rockefeller for an annual lunch with the Anderson Center scientists. She relished these visits, which provided her with an opportunity to learn firsthand about the various research initiatives underway at the Center. Through the years, Mardi developed a special bond with the Anderson Center’s graduate fellows. She also formed a close connection with David Rockefeller, who was so moved by her phenomenal generosity that he personally hosted one of these summer lunches to express his gratitude.

When Mardi passed away in 2017, she left a significant bequest to Rockefeller to establish and endow the Marjorie Anderson Matheson Fund for Support of Outstanding Young Scientists. Available to exceptionally accomplished students, postdoctoral scientists, and tenure track faculty at Rockefeller, the Matheson Fund provides support for highly promising early-stage research projects. Grants from the Matheson Fund help these budding investigators advance innovative work at a time when support is most needed. Mardi’s friendship, foresight, and enlightened philanthropy forged an enduring bond with the Rockefeller community. She leaves an abiding legacy dedicated to discovery and the next generation of scientific leaders.



**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:

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