



# Living Legacies

ISSUE TEN | SPRING 2022

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY



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## A Couple's Dedication to Scientific Discovery

**George deStevens** had a lifelong passion for biomedical research and scientific discovery. He first became interested in science while attending Fordham University, where he obtained B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in organic chemistry and enzymology. In 1955, George joined the CIBA Pharmaceutical Company as a senior research chemist. He was a brilliant scientist who rose through the corporate ranks, ultimately becoming the Executive Vice President and Director of Research, in 1969, at what had merged to become CIBA-Geigy.

As Director of Research, George led the teams that developed Hydrochlorothiazide and Lopressor, which are both used to treat high blood pressure, as well as many other medicinal drugs. He supervised teams that developed pharmaceuticals for epilepsy, tuberculosis, arthritis, angina, and many other diseases. For his efforts, George was elected to the New York Academy of Sciences and inducted into the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame.


After retiring from CIBA-Geigy, George joined the faculty at Drew University. At Drew, George founded the Research Institute for Scientists Emeriti (RISE), which recruited retired scientists from New Jersey-based pharmaceutical companies to establish laboratories at Drew and mentor undergraduate students. George also created the CIBA-Geigy Drew Award for Biomedical Research. Over the years, several Rockefeller faculty have received the award, including Nobel Laureate Paul Greengard.

George's wife, **Ruby deStevens**, attended Barnard College and The New School. She worked as an editorial assistant at the *Summit Herald* and provided administrative support for the RISE program. She also assisted with her husband's international journal, *Medicinal Research Reviews*, and spent many years working in the Development Office at Drew University.

In the 1980s, George and Ruby became involved with Rockefeller, attending several events and visiting campus to meet with friends on the faculty. Because of this bond with the University and its scientists, George and Ruby decided to bequeath a significant portion of their estate to Rockefeller.

Since George's career had been devoted to therapeutic development and scientific education, he and Ruby focused their contribution on funding biomedical research and mentorship. Through their testamentary gift to Rockefeller, they created the George and Ruby deStevens Professorship and the George and Ruby deStevens Graduate Fellowship. Their bequest supports the work of researchers ranging from promising young investigators to senior faculty.

The deStevens Professorship and Graduate Fellowship are wonderful tributes to George and Ruby's lifelong dedication to scientific discovery and are an enduring legacy to their friendship with Rockefeller.



**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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