Living Legacies ISSUE ELEVEN | FALL 2023

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY





Empowering Groundbreaking Studies

Carlos G. Bell, Jr. was an esteemed aeronautical and nuclear engineer with a distinguished career that spanned over five decades. A native of Texas, Carlos graduated from Texas A&M University in 1948 with a degree in aeronautical engineering and received a Master of Science and then a Doctor of Science from Harvard's Graduate School of Engineering in 1955. Carlos interrupted his education to serve as a commissioned Flight Officer in the Army Air Corps for four years during World War II.

Carlos began his scientific career as an Associate Professor at Northwestern University, where his studies focused on the burgeoning field of nuclear reactivity. Carlos's career flourished as he went on to teach at The Reactor School at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he also served as Chairman of the Department of Urban and Environmental Engineering, and at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Throughout his outstanding academic career, Carlos mentored countless young scientists while helping to greatly advance the field of nuclear engineering.

Carlos published numerous articles in leading scientific journals, and his research was important in developing national safety standards and protocols for the detection and management of radioactive fallout and nuclear waste. His expertise was frequently called upon by a wide range of federal and state committees and hearings on nuclear energy, including the Atomic Energy Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

Carlos Bell was also a visionary regarding his philanthropic objectives. He included The Rockefeller University in his estate plans by arranging for Rockefeller to receive a generous distribution of funds from a Trust that Carlos had established during his lifetime. Carlos was very interested in the science of reproductive biology. As such, he stipulated that his contribution be used to support "basic research on birth control". Through this gift, Carlos established the Carlos Bell Fund at The Rockefeller University, in support of reproductive biology research led by Dr. Hermann Steller, head of the Strang Laboratory of Apoptosis and Cancer Biology. Carlos was inspired by Dr. Steller's studies of apoptosis, the "self-destruct" program built into each of our cells, which have shed light on the mechanisms behind fertile sperm cell formation. Upon learning about Carlos Bell's testamentary gift. Dr. Steller remarked that he was particularly honored to receive this support because it was a poignant endorsement of his work by a fellow academician

By creating a named scientific fund at the University, Carlos made a generous commitment to supporting groundbreaking research at Rockefeller. Today, his meaningful gift continues to play an important role in advancing our understanding of reproductive biology. 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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