

# DeLaCroix family frames fellowship honoring Hudock — a mentor who makes a difference

Fern Hays DeLaCroix came to IU in the late sixties expecting to major in journalism. An honors class changed her mind. The course, team-taught by protozoologist Tracy Sonneborn, developmental biologist Robert Briggs, and others, convinced DeLaCroix to give up journalism for zoology.

She never regretted her decision. Teachers like Sonneborn, Briggs, William Breneman, and John Sinclair made such an impact on her that DeLaCroix not only finished her undergraduate work in zoology, she also earned a master's degree in the same subject.

It was George Hudock, however, who impressed her the most. She found him to be an intellectually challenging teacher who was totally committed to his students. Hudock also proved to be a caring advisor who pushed DeLaCroix to reach her potential.

During her freshman year, Fern met Cliff DeLaCroix. Saturday laboratory courses were the norm in those days, and they fondly recall study dates in Jordan Hall. Fern would be toiling in her lab while Cliff, a business major, studied in a nearby classroom.

During Fern's senior year, the two made plans to marry and then relocate to Indianapolis. Hudock helped Fern plan her schedule so she could still graduate on time. Packing four years' worth of major course requirements into three seemed impossible, but Hudock found a way.

"George helped me find nontraditional ways to accomplish my undergraduate and graduate goals in the limited time frame available to me," says Fern. "George's belief that I could accomplish anything I wanted was certainly an inspiration. I'll always be grateful for his guidance."



Annalese Poorman

*"You can imagine how embarrassed George is by all the fuss."  
— Fern DeLaCroix*

Hudock's philosophy encouraged Fern to pursue a number of opportunities. She conducted research in immunology at Harvard Medical School, was a food microbiologist for two major companies in Fort Wayne, and has done test development for a diagnostic firm. She currently holds the title of quality systems and customer operations manager at Boehringer Mannheim in Indianapolis.

Fern and Cliff recently updated their wills. Each wanted to remember the university that played such an important part in their lives. Cliff, now a vice president with Norfolk Southern Railroad, chose to leave money to his fraternity, Delta Upsilon. Fern decided to thank her favorite professor with a fellowship in his name.

The George Hudock Fellowship is open to biology master's and doctoral-level students with academic merit. It supports areas that are traditionally not well funded, such as master's candidate expenses, summer funding for graduate students, and qualified travel and training expenses for seminars for graduate students.

The DeLaCroix family initially gave an outright donation to establish the Hudock Fellowship and then created a deferred gift for it in the form of a bequest. Hudock's former students have joined them in supporting this fund. One wrote, "George Hudock had an incredible influence on my life. He should know his impact on the thousands of students he taught. It is my sincere wish that the Hudock Fellowship is a huge success."

Due to the DeLaCroix's efforts and with help from Hudock's former students, the first Hudock Fellowship will be awarded this spring. Not a bad way to say thanks to a special teacher.

## Biology Alumni Newsletter

This newsletter is published annually by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Department of Biology and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For membership or activities information, call (800) 824-3044, or e-mail (iualumni@indiana.edu).

### Department of Biology

Chairman ..... Marc Muskavitch  
 News Editor ..... Kathy E. Wyss  
 Editorial Assistant ..... Matthew Press

### College of Arts & Sciences

Dean ..... Morton Lowengrub  
 Director of Development ..... Susan Dunn Green

### IU Alumni Association

University Director for Alumni Affairs ..... Jerry F. Tardy  
 Assistant Alumni Director ..... Jodie Hollowitz  
 Editor for Constituent Publications ..... Carol Edge  
 Editorial Assistant ..... Leora Baude

