

# Supporting Women in Science

## The Regina Best Heldrich Science Endowment for Douglass



Regina B. Heldrich '42

By the time Regina Best Heldrich '42 came to NJC, pioneering physicist and chemist Marie Curie was a recipient of the Nobel Prize in physics, and a second prize in chemistry. Curie, the first woman to receive the honor, was described as caring, dignified and unassuming. It makes sense that, years later, a young woman reading Curie's

biography would be inspired.

"It changed my life," says Regina who recalls that the biography sparked what became a lifelong interest in science. Regina majored in chemistry and had a rewarding career both in chemical laboratories and in corporate administration. Now Regina is helping to inspire future women scientists through the creation of The Regina Best Heldrich Science Endowment for Douglass.

Because of her generous gift, the endowment will provide funding for the most pressing needs of the Douglass Project for Women in Math, Science, and Engineering each year. It will support Douglass students with science research grants and in the programs offered through Project SUPER (Science for Undergraduates: A Program for Excellence in Research). Project SUPER provides a myriad of enrichment opportunities and support to assist undergraduate women by enhancing their academic pursuits in the sciences with summer orientation programs, mentors, job shadowing opportunities, summer research internships and advanced research opportunities. As women are still underrepresented in science fields, opportunities to do significant lab work at the undergraduate level are important. Experiencing the practical applications of

scientific study motivates students and helps them persist in their studies. It also gives them a competitive advantage in applying for graduate schools and employment.

"When I got into the lab, I just loved it," shares Regina. "Along the way, many people helped me. I am happy to be able to help today's students."

Like Madame Curie, Regina is caring, dignified and unassuming. She is held in the highest esteem by Douglass alumnae and by the generations of Douglass students who benefit from her generosity.

Regina's gift was a lead contribution to The Campaign for Douglass, publicly launched last October. This Campaign, the most ambitious in Douglass' history, seeks to raise \$35 million to endow the unique programs and opportunities Douglass provides for her students and will help to build a new residence hall on the Jameson Campus. To date, and with Regina's leadership, more than \$19 million has been raised.

To join Regina in supporting The Campaign for Douglass, visit [www.douglasdifference.org](http://www.douglasdifference.org).



Photo by Anne Marie Russo