

## Honoring Professor and Pioneer

BY MONIQUE JOHNSON

Science brought Allan Campbell and Alice del Campillo together nearly 60 years ago. He was teaching microbiology at the University of Michigan; she was working toward a PhD in biochemistry. Their research took them from Ann Arbor to Paris to Rochester, and eventually to Stanford, where they have worked side by side since 1968.

Science also brought Richard Beleson, '76, into the Campbells' orbit, as he began his sophomore year at Stanford in 1973. "It was the golden era of discoveries," Beleson explains. "I wanted to work in a research lab, particularly in molecular biology, and I saw Professor Campbell as one of the pioneers in the field."

It was the beginning of a lifelong relationship, which Beleson recently commemorated with a \$1 million gift to establish a scholarship in honor of the Campbells. His gift will be matched 1-to-1 by the university to create a \$2 million endowment. Karen Cheng, '10 (profiled below), is the first recipient.

Campbell, now the Barbara Kimball Browning Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, was indeed a pioneer, renowned for discovering how viruses insert their DNA into host chromosomes. What became known as the Campbell Insertion Model explained this fundamental process at a time when researchers were still figuring out the basics of genetic structure and helped to lay the groundwork for the biotechnology industry. His insights and achievements have earned him many honors in the scientific world.

"My general method of approaching science is to look at the information we have in the field, try to construct the simplest most satisfying picture of it, and then test it—over and over again—to make sure it's really true," he says.

Professor Campbell is quick to point out that his wife made her own mark in research. "When we were married in 1958, Alice had a much more impressive publication record than I did," he says. Most of her research had been done in the laboratory of Nobel laureate Severo Ochoa at New York University, where she met and sometimes worked beside leading biochemists of the era. At Stanford, she stepped back to focus on raising their children, Wendy, '82, and Joseph, '84. But she served as a research associate, and Beleson often found himself working alongside her during his three years in the Campbell lab. It was a close-knit group: "Allan never liked a big lab because he liked to interact with the students," says Alice Campbell. Occasionally, Beleson and the other students were invited home for dinner.

Beleson went on to combine his background in molecular biology with a master's in business and became one of the first stock analysts to focus on biotechnology—just as the industry was getting off the ground. "I saw a lot of companies go from just a dream to a reality," he says. Coincidentally, both he and Professor Campbell are wrapping up their careers this year and looking forward to retirement.

Endowing a scholarship is Beleson's way of giving back to Stanford and celebrating his biotech career. It also reflects his high regard for the science that first connected him with the Campbells: "Dr. Campbell is a pure scientist, and I respect the fact that he has continued to be true to studying pure molecular biology for the sake of science. I think that is wonderful and wanted to honor him." ■

Scholarship donor Richard Beleson, '76, and recipient Karen Cheng, '10, with Dr. Alice del Campillo Campbell and Professor Allan Campbell

PHOTO: Steve Gladfelter



### Karen Cheng, '10

**RECIPIENT**, Richard Beleson Scholarship Fund in Honor of Professor Allan Campbell and Dr. Alice del Campillo Campbell

**MAJORS**: Biology and Philosophy

#### WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

My parents moved to the United States from Hong Kong. My father is a cabinetmaker. My mother is a checker at a grocery store. They always stress doing your best. Seeing how hard they work is a strong motivator for me.

#### WHY TWO MAJORS?

Biology is typically very focused in one area of one specific problem, whereas philosophy looks at the bigger picture and is very useful in thinking through the logic of things. That will help me next year in medical school — especially with regard to ethics.

#### YOU FULFILLED YOUR GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS EARLY. HOW DID YOU SPEND YOUR LAST QUARTER AT STANFORD?

I worked at the medical school in the lab of Professor Thomas Quertermous exploring the ways certain single nucleotide polymorphisms of DNA sequences contribute to coronary heart disease. I've been doing a lot of pipetting lately.

#### JUNIOR YEAR YOU ACTUALLY TOOK *GENETICS OF PROKARYOTES* WITH PROFESSOR CAMPBELL. WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?

He's a really good professor because he's done it all. Most of the time, the class was just in awe of him. It was just amazing thinking of all he has accomplished.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER THE DAY YOU WERE ACCEPTED TO STANFORD?

For a long time I didn't tell people I got in because I wasn't sure if I could afford to go. I don't think I'd be here without scholarship support.