

George Hegeman

George Hegeman graduated cum laude with a B.A. in biochemical sciences from Harvard University in 1960. In 1965, he earned his Ph.D. in comparative biochemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, under the direction of Professor R.Y. Stanier. While a graduate student at Berkeley, he was an assistant to Professor C.B. van Niel for the internationally known summer course Microbiology at the Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University, Pacific Grove, California. After receiving his Ph.D., George became an instructor in bacteriology and immunology at the University of California, Berkeley.

In 1965, George traveled to France and did postdoctoral work in biochemistry for one year in Dr. G.N. Cohen's laboratory at the Laboratoire d'Enzymologie, CNRS, Gif-sur-Yvette, France. He then returned to Berkeley, where from 1966 to 1972 he was an assistant professor of bacteriology and immunology at the University of California. He was hired in 1972 as an associate professor of microbiology in the Department of Microbiology at Indiana University Bloomington. In 1978 he was promoted to full professor, and from 1982 to 1991 was head of the Microbiology Program, which by that time had become part of the Department of Biology.

His graduate training in biochemistry with Professor Stanier and his studies in general microbiology with Professor van Niel—two legendary figures in microbiology research—as well as his postdoctoral studies with the internationally known Dr. Cohen provided the background that made George indispensable to the Microbiology Program at Indiana University. The undergraduate program underwent important curricular changes while George was here, and the courses that George introduced and taught were essential to the changing curriculum.

Courses introduced by George included a lecture and laboratory course in general microbiology surveying the different types of bacteria (Biology of the Prokaryotes, M460-M465). In conjunction with this course he taught Intensive Writing (W333). George was also instrumental in introducing a laboratory course, Bacterial Physiology (M360), which is required for all microbiology

majors. In addition, George taught for many years in the introductory course, Microbiology (M310), which served not only microbiology majors but also a large number of biology majors who wished to learn more about microbiology. His teaching responsibilities also included Biomedical Documentation (M400), a library course in which the students learned how to research scientific subjects and write reports. Recently he introduced a new course, Biotechnology (L440), an area of study that is gaining prominence in universities and industry, and that marks a new direction for the science of microbiology.

George has served as an adviser and mentor to undergraduate microbiology majors for many years. He is a respected professor with whom the students have formed lasting attachments. For his commitment to undergraduate education George has been honored twice by the students, once in 1996 and again in 1998, with the Senior Class Award for Teaching Excellence in Biology and Dedication to Undergraduates.

George and the students he has trained in his laboratory have pursued research together in several areas of bacterial metabolism, including the metabolism of aromatic compounds such as mandelate, benzene, phenol, and their derivatives. The topics of his many research publications include the degradation of environmental pollutants, reflecting George's concerns about toxic pollutants. His research has resulted in four U.S. patents.

The list of George's professional activities both in and outside of the university is extensive. He has served on thirty-two university committees and eighteen departmental committees. He has also been a member of National Institutes of Health panels, a consultant to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, a consultant to many industrial companies, a participant in Department of Energy workshops, and a member of panels and committees of the American Society of Microbiology (ASM), both at the national level and for the southern Indiana branch. George has also served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Bacteriology* and *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*.

In addition to his university work, his professional work with the ASM and

government agencies, and his consulting activities with industry, George is a very active participant in regional, Monroe County, and Bloomington community organizations. He has served as vice president and president of the Forest Resources Association, which is a five-county organization that educates the public about management and use of forest lands. George has also been a member of the Bloomington-Monroe County League of Women Voters, president of the Monroe County Beekeepers Association, president of the Community Farmers Market Advisory Board, a member of the Monroe County Extension Board, a member of the Monroe County Solid Waste Advisory Board, a member of the Code Blue Committee (Children at Risk), a member of the Hilltop Educational Foundation, and a member of the mayor's PCB advisory committee. He has been a presenter at the Bloomington WonderLab and an organizer of the Biology Room at Brownie Math and Science Days.

George married Sally L. Hegeman in 1961, and the two of them moved to California to pursue their graduate studies, George in biochemistry and Sally in pharmacology and experimental therapeutics at the Medical School campus of the University of California in San Francisco. When they moved to Bloomington, Sally joined the faculty of the Medical Sciences Program and shortly thereafter the faculty of the School of Optometry, where she became an associate professor and had a distinguished career in teaching. She retired last year.

George and Sally have two children, Susan and Adrian. Susan has a Ph.D. in English and is an associate professor of English at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Adrian has a Ph.D. in biochemistry and is a postdoctoral student in the biotechnology department at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

George's broad training in basic biochemistry and general microbiology has provided an invaluable contribution to the microbiology curriculum and to the teaching of undergraduate and graduate students at IU. He will be sorely missed. The biology faculty and students tip their hats to you, George, and we say, "Well done."

David White
Arthur Koch