Looking toward the future: John and Fledra Hatch

John W. Hatch came to UNC in 1970 to work at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research. Soon, he was enrolled as a doctoral student at UNC’s School of Public Health. He became a professor of health behavior and health education, retiring in 1995 as Kenan Professor emeritus.

Now, after other instances of generosity, Hatch and wife Fledra will benefit the School through a gift annuity, which provides long-term scholarship funding for a health behavior student.

“This gift reflects the value Fledra and I place on public health, especially public health education,” Dr. Hatch says. “I’ve had the opportunity to teach students who have gone on to do great things. I’ve visited the School’s graduates at work in South America, Europe, Africa, and of course, all across the United States. I know we share a common value and tradition with the Gillings School of Global Public Health—that of the importance of public health practice at home and around the world.”

Dr. and Mrs. Hatch attended recent World of Difference dinners, at which they met a student whose scholarship bears their name.

“When John asked me about the School’s gift annuity program,” Mrs. Hatch says, “and whether it would be a good choice for us, I said, ‘What a wonderful idea!’ It had been so energizing to speak with this student and to hear about her career goals and all she wanted to accomplish with her life. It means something to be able to provide a little something to people who need it.”

Pfizer knows about innovation. The pharmaceutical company has a leading portfolio of more than 30 products and medicines that support wellness and prevention, as well as treatments for cancer, cardiovascular diseases and a broad range of other therapeutic areas.

As a generous sponsor of the School’s Innovation Lecture Series, Pfizer supported an April 3 talk by Joseph M. DeSimone, PhD, Chancellor’s Eminent Professor of Chemistry at UNC, about “The Cost-Effective Design of Vaccines and Therapeutics.”

“Pfizer is committed to finding sustainable solutions to the most pressing healthcare challenges,” says Carmine Novembre, MPH, CPH, MSc, of Pfizer’s External Medical Affairs. “Vaccines play an essential role in disease prevention and preservation of public health, and we are proud to support the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health in bringing together thought leaders to promote discussion and innovation in this important area.”

Thanks to Pfizer and other donors for bringing learning opportunities to the School! Learn more at www.sph.unc.edu/giving.