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Though Ohio resident Dr. Johanna DeStefano never earned any of her degrees from Temple, the professor emeritus of Ohio State University is leaving \$1.5 million to the School of Communications and Theater for the creation of an Endowed Chair for First Amendment Rights.

The decision to leave the financial gift for an endowed chair was a discussion Johanna had with her husband, Ralph DeStefano, before he died suddenly in 1996 at the age of 60.

It was Ralph who was the Temple graduate and native Philadelphian. Born and bred in South Philadelphia, Ralph earned his bachelor's degree in 1965 in English and put himself through school while working as a police officer in Philadelphia. "He was charmed...everyone who met him said he was larger than life," Johanna said of her late husband.

Prior to his eight years of service in the Philadelphia Police Force, Ralph served in the U.S. Army where he was an electronics advisor for the Nationalist Chinese in Taiwan as a member of the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG). "He built radio stations down the spine of Taiwan," Johanna said.

After his discharge, he returned to his beloved Philadelphia and began taking classes at Temple toward his degree. Johanna met Ralph at Temple during this time. She had already earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Stanford University and came east to Philadelphia to pursue a second master's at Temple.

"After [Ralph] graduated, we were talking about getting married, and he encouraged me to go for my Ph.D.," Johanna said, explaining why she decided to return to Stanford for her doctorate in applied linguistics. A teaching job offered to

Johanna by Ohio State University in 1970 led the DeStefanos to move to Upper Arlington, just outside of Columbus, Ohio.

In Ohio, Ralph took up his interest in electronics again, and his entrepreneurial skills in broadcast and electronic media soon led to much success. The DeStefanos worked to build a radio station from the ground up in Athens County, Ohio. "Even though the station's call letters were WYNO, we never said [the word] 'wino' on the air!" Johanna said with a laugh.

Despite the success that the DeStefanos had in Ohio, Ralph's fondness for his native Philadelphia and Temple University never ceased. For this reason, the DeStefanos brought up Temple in a discussion of their wills. With no children, the DeStefanos decided that an investment in education would be a wonderful way to pass on their good fortune and to help others. Education was always highly valued by both Ralph and Johanna, and the choice to leave a financial gift to a university came easily.

"We wanted to give to a university where we thought it would make the biggest impact," Johanna said, explaining why they chose Temple instead of her alma mater. "At a place like Stanford, it wouldn't make as big an impact as it would at Temple," she said.

Setting up an Endowed Chair for First Amendment Rights seemed the logical choice for the DeStefanos. "[Ralph] was very passionate about human rights," Johanna said.

In addition to setting up the Endowed Chair for First Amendment Rights in her will, Johanna is also considering the financial possibilities of setting up funding for Ph.D. students as well.

In leaving these financial gifts, Johanna hopes to afford a greater amount of intellectual freedom for students and to pass on the values that she and her husband felt so strongly about.

"It's been a wonderful life, a truly wonderful life," Johanna DeStefano said of her good fortune and happiness with her husband.