

## Dr. David A. Drachman Education Fund



A renowned neurologist, beloved teacher, and pioneering researcher, Dr. Drachman impacted the lives of people while he was alive and continues even since his death in 2016.

As chair and professor of the Department of Neurology at UMass Medical School from 1977 to 2002, Drachman was one of the earliest proponents of research into the understanding of Alzheimer's disease. He earned international acclaim for his groundbreaking investigations into dementia, Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, the neurology of aging, and the diagnosis and treatment of dizziness. The medical community, will remember him as the author of the single most extensively referenced neurological paper on the criteria for diagnosing Alzheimer's disease; his patients and colleagues regard Drachman as an expert clinician they could turn to in a time of need; his family and friends revere him as a kind and gentle soul who never ceased to learn and who embraced life to its fullest.

In addition to his medical profession, Dr. Drachman was an accomplished and widely exhibited photographer, a skilled sculptor, a passionate fly fisherman, and an avid birder. He and his family vacationed on Sanibel Island, Florida, for nearly 50 years, where he discovered the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge and fell in love with its mission to "protect, educate, and inspire."

Drachman's family established this education fund in his memory to recognize his love and admiration for the beauty of nature and importance of places like "Ding" Darling for wildlife and for nature-lovers like their father. The Dr. David A. Drachman Education Fund will provide programmatic support for grade school children from underserved communities who come to visit the Refuge and observe, learn about, and photograph wildlife.

*Individuals, families, businesses, or foundations interested in making a gift to support the Dr. David A. Drachman Education Fund can visit [dingdarlingsociety.org](http://dingdarlingsociety.org) and click the donate button.*

*To learn more about establishing your own permanent endowed fund, call 239-472-1100 ext. 4. Donors can establish an endowment with a gift of \$10,000 or more. Proceeds earned by the investment go towards supporting the Refuge mission.*