The Lawrence and Helen Baldinger Endowed Library Collection

In Critical Technologies in Medicine

The Lawrence and Helen Baldinger Endowed Library Collection in Critical Technologies in Medicine honors Professor Lawrence H. Baldinger (’31, ’33 PhD) and his wife, Helen. Lawrence joined Notre Dame’s Department of Pharmacy in 1933. He became the dean of the College of Science in 1943, serving in this capacity until 1969, when he was appointed advisor while continuing as associate dean and head of the Department of Preprofessional Studies.

A recipient of the Notre Dame lay faculty award for distinguished service in 1950, his lifelong specialty was organic chemistry; he conducted extensive research on peppermint oil for the USDA. In his honor, the Lawrence H. Baldinger Award is awarded annually to an outstanding preprofessional student.

Helen Baldinger was active in the Ladies of Notre Dame, often serving as a mentor to new faculty wives. She and Lawrence had three sons and a daughter.

The Baldinger Collection was endowed through the generosity of Vinton B. and Marjorie P. Yardley. Vinton, a graduate of the University of Kansas, came to work in Mishawaka, Indiana, as an electrical engineer. Marjorie, his wife, was a secretary. They were both friends of University faculty and loved Notre Dame immensely.

There are many active centers or programs within the University concerned with medical, environmental, and healthcare issues, each conducting state-of-the-art research. The Hesburgh Libraries’ responsibilities for providing research materials in support of these initiatives are growing at a prodigious rate. The Baldinger Endowment provides important journals, books, and electronic databases.

The Yardleys have also established a second library endowment at the Named level.