Throughout their lives, Laura and Will Corbett maintained close ties to Notre Dame. Their relationship with the University began in 1923, when they brought their son, William Jr., to enroll as a freshman. They soon developed lasting friendships with Rev. John F. O’Hara, C.S.C., then prefect of religion, and many other religious and lay members of the staff and faculty. Will was a member of the Notre Dame Board of Trustees, and Laura was a charter member of the Women’s Advisory Council.

In 1946, the Corbetts established a fund which would become the William J. and Laura B. Corbett Medieval Library Endowment for the Medieval Institute, one of the University’s most distinguished programs. Over the years, three generations of family members have continued to support this fund, which has been critical to the development of this crown jewel of the Notre Dame collections.

Since the very inception of the Medieval Institute at Notre Dame, the Corbett Endowment has been the basic source for materials in the study of medieval philosophy and theology and the manuscripts in which these texts were first recorded. Over the years, the funds have allowed the Medieval Institute to expand and develop along with the range of interests of medievalists at the University.