The Thomas H. and Dorthy S. Corson Program

For the José Durand Collection of Latin American Literary Works in Spanish, Italian, and Latin

Thomas H. Corson, chairman emeritus of Coachmen Industries, Inc., of Elkhart, Indiana, is a member of the Advisory Council for the Notre Dame Law School. His wife, Dorthy, a registered nurse, served as a director of Coachmen Industries for 29 years. She is a member of the Goshen College Advisory Board and the Elkhart County Community Foundation.

Tom is a trustee emeritus of Interlochen Arts Academy and National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan, and Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. He is a past director of the First State Bank and the Midwest Commerce Bank of Elkhart County, Indiana, the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce, and numerous other organizations. He has received many awards for his leadership roles in business and civic organizations.

Through the generosity of the Corsons, the Hesburgh Libraries have acquired a major research collection focusing on colonial Latin American history and intellectual history. While private libraries of this nature come on the market with some regularity, few have the quality or the significance of this collection, which was assembled over a period of 40 years by the late José Durand, professor of Spanish at the University of California at Berkeley. While the acquisition of this library in itself constitutes a great step forward in collection building at the University, the Durand Library has the added appeal of supporting a wide range of disciplines targeted for expansion at Notre Dame and of filling in critical gaps in existing library collections in the humanities.