Dorothy Griffin is president of Varflex Corporation, a manufacturer of electrical insulating sleeving founded by her father and uncle. Her late husband, James, graduated from Notre Dame’s School of Commerce in 1934 and was a prominent attorney in Rome, New York. Dorothy taught French and English for seven years prior to her marriage and her association with Varflex. At Notre Dame, she is a member of the Stephen Theodore Badin Guild and serves on the Advisory Council for the Snite Museum of Art.

In addition to this endowment, Dorothy supports the Dorothy G. Griffin Chair in Modern American Literature and the Jim and Dorothy Griffin Library Endowment Strengthening the Joyce Sports Collection and Rare Resource Acquisitions. Her background in French studies naturally drew Dorothy to the University’s Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

The Dorothy G. Griffin Endowed Collection in French Poetry allows the Hesburgh Libraries to make a dramatic difference in a genre of growing interest at Notre Dame. The endowment fills in gaps in primary texts and strengthens collections in medieval and Renaissance French poetry (including works by Marot, Scève, DuBellay, Ronsard, Machaut, Christine de Pisan, and Villon); in 20th-century French poetry (Valéry, Reverdy, Éluard, and Michaux); and in the verse poetry of Baudelaire. These texts enrich a wide range of courses offered at various academic levels in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and lend invaluable breadth and support to the humanities at the University.