The Dorene and Jerry Hammes Library Endowment for Critical Technologies in Engineering

Dedicated to Rev. Theodore Hesburgh

The Hammes’ relationship with Notre Dame spans three generations, beginning when Jerry’s father, Romy, visited his former secretary— who became President O’Hara’s assistant in 1934— on the Notre Dame campus. Jerry was a member of the Class of 1953. He and Dorene were married by Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., in Illinois; for their 50th anniversary, they renewed their vows in Father Hesburgh’s office chapel on the 13th floor of the Hesburgh Library.

Jerry and Dorene are community leaders who have been frequently honored for their contributions. Both were appointed to Notre Dame councils in 1976— Dorene to the Women’s Advisory Council and Jerry to the Advisory Council for the Hesburgh Libraries, on which he still serves. Jerry is also the past chairman of the Board of Trustees at Holy Cross College and past vice chairman of Saint Mary’s College Board of Trustees. They have both received the President’s Medal, and Jerry holds an honorary doctor of laws degree from Saint Mary’s College. Both Dorene and Jerry were involved in the gifting of the new Hammes Mowbray Hall at Notre Dame, and they support several endowments at the University. Dorene has also established the Dorene Dwyer Hammes Bereavement Fund, which provides counseling to grieving students.

Jerry and Dorene have been members of Sacred Heart Parish since 1955. They have four children: Jeffrey (’92), John, Susan, and Geralyn.

The Hammes Endowment, dedicated to Father Hesburgh, helps the Hesburgh Libraries to meet the information resource needs of student engineers, providing them with the journals, technical reports, databases, and other resources they need to maintain their competitive edge.