Howard Phalin (’28) and Evangeline “Pete” Peterson were married in Notre Dame’s Log Chapel in 1931. Their life together was centered on book publishing until 1968, when Howard retired as chairman of the board of Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, publisher of World Book. The magnificent granite mural of Christ the Teacher that adorns the Hesburgh Library, a gift of the Phalins, is a testimony to their love of books and Notre Dame.

Although involved in numerous community and church-related activities, Howard and Pete were committed to Notre Dame. He was a member of the Advisory Council for the College of Arts and Letters and the Associate Board of Lay Trustees. When the University’s governance was changed in 1967, he was elected to the new Board of Trustees. He went on to become a Trustee Emeritus. In 1968, he received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University.

For many years, Pete was active in the affairs of the Women’s Advisory Council. When she passed away, Howard provided for the restoration of the stained glass windows in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in her memory.

The Phalin Collection has been devoted primarily to the development of collections in English, American, and comparative literature. It has enabled the acquisition of retrospective materials, excessively priced items, and publications, especially those published before 1980. It has also supported newer areas of study including the literature of women, African Americans, developing countries, and the Vietnam War. It includes many non-traditional materials such as videos, rare books, recordings, and compact discs.