To benefit Notre Dame’s Medieval Institute and to recognize its international reputation and Laura’s interest in French culture, Michael and Laura Shannon of Houston, Texas, established the Laura Shannon Endowed Medieval Collection. Mike (’58) is the president of MEShannon & Associates, a Houston-based financial consulting firm. Before embarking on a career as a financial executive for such companies as Gulf Oil, Republic Steel, and Ecolab, where he served as chairman of the board, he earned a master’s degree in business administration from Stanford University. A respected businessman, Mike serves on the board of directors at Apogee Enterprises, Inc., the Clorox Company, NACCO Industries, Inc., and CenterPoint Energy. He is currently a member of Notre Dame’s Advisory Council for Graduate Studies and Research and a governing director of the Houston Symphony Society.

Laura visits France annually, honing her language skills and exploring libraries and other cultural centers. A graduate of Webster University, she currently serves on the University’s Advisory Council for European Studies. Mike and Laura have two daughters, Claire and Kathryn.

Earnings from the Shannon Endowment have supported the acquisition of books related to Old and Middle English and Old Norse; rare materials, such as an early printing of the New Testament in the Gothic language; and the Privy Council Proceedings, early records of British monarchs of keen interest to scholars of Old and Middle English.