

Couple leaves Axe Library \$1.7 million

A \$1.7 million gift to the Leonard H. Axe Library at Pittsburg State University will help ensure that the library is able to invest in new technology, according to Robert Walter, dean of Learning Resources at PSU. The gift is from the estate of Theodore and Faery Loveridge. Mr. Loveridge died in 1998 and Mrs. Loveridge died in May of 2005. The couple bequeathed an equal amount to the University of Oklahoma.

The Loveridges specified that the gift should be used to endow a fund that will be used to “enrich the library’s information resources through accessing electronic information systems...” The money generated each year, which is estimated to be around \$80,000 to \$85,000, can be used by the library to use “other technical advances in the dissemination of knowledge...” and to provide support of electronic books and journals.

Walter said the Loveridge gift will help meet critical needs at the library.

“There is a misconception that the Internet has eliminated the need for books and journals,” Walter said. “The demand for books and journals has not diminished and at the same time, the demand for electronic publications and databases has grown dramatically.”

Walter said the areas in which the library has the most difficulty keeping up are science, technology and business.

“Most electronic databases in these areas are exceedingly costly,” Walter said.

These are the areas, Walter said, in which the Loveridge gift will have the greatest impact.

Brad Hodson, PSU’s director of Development, said gifts such as the Loveridges’ illustrate “how one couple can have an amazing impact on the future of Pittsburg State University. Students and faculty for generations will benefit from the generosity of Theodore and Faery Loveridge.”

Theodore Loveridge was born in Franklin, Kan., in 1916 and graduated from Arma High School in 1934. He

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attended Kansas State Teachers College (now PSU), where he majored in chemistry and math, and graduated in 1939. He then earned a degree in pharmacy from the Kansas City College of Pharmacy. His father, D. F. Loveridge, was a custodian at KSTC from 1944 until 1958.

Theodore Loveridge spent most of his professional career as the assistant chief inspector for the Food and Drug Administration.

Faery (Hopper) Loveridge was born in Etowah, Oklahoma, in 1909 and graduated from Noble High School. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma. She married Theodore Loveridge in Pittsburg in 1947.

In the early 1950s, Mrs. Loveridge worked in the laboratory for Phillips Petroleum Company. In the late '50s, she moved with her husband to Buffalo, N.Y., where she worked as a librarian for Cornell University, retiring in 1972.

Mr. and Mrs. Loveridge retired to Rogers, Ark., where they lived until 1993, when they moved to Norman, Okla.

—Pitt State—