

This scholarship honors Governor Preston Smith and First Lady Ima Smith, the first woman to be named a distinguished alumna of Texas Tech University. It was established in 1998 to provide financial assistance to graduate students pursuing West Texas research at Texas Tech, and the first award was made for the 2005-2006 academic year. Always staunch supporters of higher education and Texas Tech University, the Smiths believed college graduates were the foundation of the nation's future. West Texans are proud of the Smiths' economic, social, and, particularly, their educational legacy throughout the South Plains region.

Both West Texas natives, Preston and Ima Smith married in 1935 and had two children, Mickey and Jan. Preston graduated from Texas Tech University in 1934 with a degree in Economics and Ima was a former Texas Tech student who studied General Education.

Preston Smith was the first full-fledged West Texan ever elected Governor and the first Texan since the Civil War to move directly from Lieutenant Governor to Governor by election. His political strength was in the rural areas and small towns that responded so enthusiastically to his person-to-person style of campaigning. In 1970, Smith became the only Texas gubernatorial primary candidate to run unopposed.

Some of Governor Smith's greatest accomplishments include: establishing more new state universities and medical other governor; establishing training facilities than any other year salary increase for teachers; dinating Board that distributed more equitable basis; beginning speaking students; creating a Human Relations, to promote state government; promoting the in Mexico, with other offices elsewhere in Latin America; initiating the first comprehensive Drug Abuse Program; establishing the first Commission on Human Relations; starting an Early Childhood Development Program; and establishing the Texas Urban Development Commission.



and dental facilities than any more vocational and technical governor; overseeing a ten-creating the University Coor-state funds to colleges on a pre-school for non-English Governor's Commission on employment of minorities in 1st International Trade Office

With her husband in the Governor's Office, Mrs. Smith became active in improving conditions at prisons and mental institutions. Mrs. Smith was instrumental in having the Lubbock State School built for those with mental illnesses.

Following politics, the Smiths returned to Lubbock and became active in civic organizations, such as the Rotary Club of Lubbock (he was a Paul Harris Fellow). Governor Smith volunteered for the United Way, was a member of the Texas Farm Bureau, served as a director of the Salvation Army, and, of course, he and Ima were active supporters of Texas Tech University. In the public arena he worked mightily for the state and especially for this region. For Texas Tech University, he campaigned for the Health Sciences Center, the Medical School, the Nursing School, the Pharmacy school, and our 1st-rate Law school. Governor Smith is one of the few governors who donated his personal papers to his alma mater. Some 850 boxes are used daily by researchers at the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech.

Mrs. Smith passed away in 1998 and Governor Smith passed away in 2003. Their legacy lives on through scholarships such as the Texas Tech University Graduate Scholarship for students pursuing research that is unique to the West Texas region.

(Anonymous Bio from Southwest Collection reference file, with additions by Monte L. Monroe, Archivist, Southwest Collections/Special Collections Library, 2004, and Donna Rogers, Development Officer, Texas Tech University Graduate School, 2005). Picture of Governor and Mrs. Smith during his tenure as Governor from 1969-1973 (supplied by his daughter, Jan Taylor).