The Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Gelin Emergency Loan Fund was endowed in 1998 by the estate of the late Mr. Carl H. Gelin. Mr. Gelin studied Engineering at Texas Tech University from 1939-1941. Following a career as a regional manager for Layne Pumps, he served as a consultant engineer. During his tenure as an engineer, he made some innovative adjustments that are still used today by pumping companies in West Texas. He traveled several times to Libya to help with the problems of the pumps in such arid regions. He also served in the Navy during World War II as an instructor in electronics.

Mrs. Mattie Lou (Chris) Gelin, formerly Mattie Christian, married Carl H. Gelin on April 9, 1949, and graduated from Texas Tech University that same year with a Bachelor of Arts in Commercial Art. She worked for the Hanna Pope and Hemphill Wells department stores and for the Hall Advertising Company. She contributed designs, artwork, and wrote papers, pamphlets, and booklets for many Lubbock and South Plains organizations including the Lubbock County Historical Survey Committee, the South Plains Genealogical Society, Lubbock Art Association, Lubbock Garden and Art Center, Mahon Library and the Museum of Texas Tech. She also designed historical markers for the City of Lubbock and researched and illustrated a booklet about cattle brands used in the Panhandle and other sections of West Texas. In the mid 1960’s, she received a national award at a national advertising conference for her series of advertisements for a Lubbock savings and loan company.

During their lifetime, Mr. and Mrs. Gelin were members of the Texas Tech Ex-Students Association Alumni Association) and avid supporters of the University. They strongly believed in education and, through their modest living, were able to give their estate to the Graduate School of Texas Tech University. This $1 million endowment has assisted over 500 graduate students since its inception in 1998.