Dr. Thomas Patrick Carney ('37) has served the University as a student, alumnus, parent, benefactor, counselor, lecturer, and chairperson of the Board of Trustees. He was also national president of the Alumni Association and founder of the Alumni Senate. The University has bestowed numerous awards upon Thomas, including the Edward Frederick Sorin Award, centennial awards from the Colleges of Science and Engineering, an honorary doctor of laws degree in 1969, and, with his wife, Mary Elizabeth, the 1986 Laetare Medal.

Following his graduation from Notre Dame, Thomas earned his master of science and doctoral degrees in organic chemistry from Pennsylvania State University in 1939 and 1941, respectively. He then spent more than 35 years in the pharmaceutical industry’s research, development, planning, operation, and administration. The Carneys have four children, all Notre Dame graduates.

The Thomas Patrick Carney Collection in Chemistry was established by the University in 1986 to recognize Thomas as he stepped down as board chair and was made a Life Trustee. The endowment provides scholars with access to chemical abstracts through the STN (Scientific and Technical Network). This allows researchers to search the largest chemical database in the world for structures, patents, and journal literature related to chemistry.

While the major beneficiaries of the Carney Endowment are faculty and graduate students of the Department of Chemistry, scholars in biochemistry, biology, electrical engineering, material sciences, medicine, and physics also find it indispensable to their research efforts.