The story of Notre Dame’s modern academic ascendancy begins in the postwar administration of Rev. John Cavanaugh, C.S.C., who served as University President from 1946 to 1952. Father Cavanaugh came to Notre Dame with unique executive experience, having served as private secretary in the office of Henry Ford and as advertising manager at Studebaker Corporation. While he was president, the Institute of Medieval Studies was organized, undergraduate enrollment increased by more than half, and graduate student enrollment grew five-fold. He also established the system of advisory councils, which continues today and is vital to the University’s development. He ended his term by appointing his successor, Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.

John F. “Jack” Nash established this discretionary fund in honor of his friend, Father Cavanaugh. A member and past chairman of Notre Dame’s Advisory Council for the Hesburgh Libraries, Jack spent his career in banking. He served as president, chief executive officer, and director of the Bank of Palm Beach, Florida; as chairman, president, chief executive officer, and director of the American National Bank and Trust Company in St. Paul, Minnesota; and as vice chairman, secretary, and director of the American Bancorporation, Inc.

The Hesburgh Libraries face a dynamic information environment in which cutting-edge scholarship and state-of-the-art technology are constantly redefined. The Cavanaugh Discretionary Fund was established to support the director of the libraries, placing at his or her disposal funds that will allow efficient responses to opportunities that arise outside of the normal budgeting process.

Jack has also established an endowment at the Prize level.