In 1920, John A. Morrissey Sr. founded the Chicago Rivet and Machine Co., a manufacturer of rivets, automatic rivet setting machines, tools, and parts. His sons, John Jr. and Walter, are both Notre Dame graduates. John Jr. (’58) is currently the president of Algonquin State Bank. He also serves on the board of directors of the Chicago Rivet Foundation. Walter (’64) is a partner in the law firm of Morrissey & Robinson and also serves as a director of the Chicago Rivet Foundation.

Since 1984, the Chicago Rivet Foundation Library Collection in Engineering, designated for the acquisition of general engineering materials, has been a key to expanding and enhancing the holdings of the Engineering Library. The recent formation of interdisciplinary research centers in bioengineering and pollution control, sensor materials, and applied mathematics, and the establishment of a program in computer science and engineering, has had a dramatic effect upon the collection development capabilities of the Hesburgh Libraries. Without the funds of the Chicago Rivet Foundation, several areas of advanced research in engineering would have no library materials support.