William M. and Una Murphy established the Maura Collins Endowment for Irish Studies in 2000. The endowment honors Bill’s late mother, Maura, an avid believer in higher education. Widowed at the age of 36, Maura took over the family business in Cork City, Ireland. She loved to visit the United States and took an active interest in her grandchildren’s education. In loving gratitude, Bill and Una created this endowment in her memory.

Bill serves as a director, trustee, or general partner of numerous successful private and public companies in south Florida and has served as chairman of the Archdiocese of Miami’s Annual Fund. Una (Lynch) is from Baileboro, County Cavan, Ireland. Following a career in the publishing industry in New York, she devoted her time to raising their three children: Kate, Kerri (’03), and Patrick.

Earnings from the Maura Collins Endowment are used to acquire a broad spectrum of materials in Irish history, literature, music and culture, including monographs, journals and their back runs, microtext, and electronic resources. Because of this endowment, students and researchers have access to primary resources on a number of important Irish social and political movements, such as the Home Rule Campaign, the Young Ireland Movement, and the Fenian Movement.