The Mr. and Mrs. Franklin E. Eck
Endowed Collection in Chemical Engineering

Franklin E. Eck (’44) received his degree in chemical engineering from Notre Dame and went on to serve in the U.S. Navy during World War II as chief engineering officer on a landing ship tank. He earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1949. His accomplishments in technical and industrial management led to his present position as chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc., which is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, and has plants in more than a dozen states. Frank has served as a member of the Advisory Council for the College of Engineering since 1984. His son, Frank Jr. (’89 JD), is a member of the Advisory Council for the Notre Dame Law School.

By 1984, the Department of Chemical Engineering at Notre Dame had begun to earn national recognition for its faculty research and teaching programs. The research interests of chemical engineering were also expanding and becoming more interdisciplinary, and included excursions into catalysis, reaction engineering, materials science, and biotechnology. The book purchases for the Engineering Library, however, had to be spread across the overall needs of the College of Engineering, which itself was evolving. The Eck Endowment, restricted for the purchase of library materials in chemical engineering, bolstered the collections in this area and continues to aid the goals of the department and the college.