José Enrique Fernández Sr. (’65), chairman of the board of Oriental Financial Group and chairman of the board and president of Omega Overseas Investment Corp., is one of Puerto Rico’s most respected investment bankers and financial strategists. Through his visionary leadership, Oriental has grown from a small regional bank in the northeastern corner of Puerto Rico into a diversified financial services organization with 20 branches throughout the island and more than $4 billion in managed assets.

A member of the Board of Trustees since 1995, José is a past member of the International Advisory Council and the Advisory Council for the Mendoza College of Business. He has assisted student volunteers from Notre Dame’s Center for Social Concerns who work with disadvantaged youth in various Puerto Rican communities. José and his wife, Mary Jane, have three sons: José Jr. (’90), Juan, and Miguel (’99 BA, ’00 BBA).

Hispanic studies at Notre Dame take many forms and cross many disciplines within the social sciences and humanities. Thus, Hispanic studies require library materials at all levels and in all formats to meet the classroom needs of students and the research needs of an active and engaged faculty.

Through the earnings of the Fernández Endowment, the Hesburgh Libraries are able to acquire Latin American contemporary, colonial, 19th-century, and Independence literature as it is published. Included are works of major novelists and short-story writers, poets, dramatists, essayists, works of and about major feminist writers, and works of literary theory and criticism. The endowment is allowing the libraries to satisfy a pressing need in an important area of inquiry and to steadily build resources in Hispanic studies.

There is also a José E. Fernández Sr. Library Retrospective Collection in Hispanic Caribbean Studies at the Distinguished level.