Chris ('77) and Susan Kearney ('78) of Charlotte, North Carolina, established this endowment to honor their fathers. Mr. Kearney and Mr. Foley were sole proprietors of family businesses in small Pennsylvania towns. Like many parents of Notre Dame students, they were of Irish Catholic descent with a strong devotion to their families, faith, and the University’s traditions. Both fathers were also avid readers of American history.

Chris is president and chief executive officer of SPX Corporation, a Fortune 500 multi-industry company specializing in technical and industrial products and services. In 2002, he was listed by Irish America Magazine as one of its top 100 businessmen in the United States. Susan volunteers much of her time. The couple has three sons: C.J., Kevin ('05), and Ryan. At Notre Dame, they are members of the Edward Frederick Sorin Society.

Enabling the Hesburgh Libraries to respond to research needs with unprecedented depth, earnings from the Kearney Endowment are utilized to support resources, programs, and services in the areas of pre-colonial American history through recent American history (1920 to present); American church history; intellectual and diplomatic history; immigration history; and African-American history. The endowment also provides for works produced in microformat and electronic mediums.