The Donald R. Keough Family
Irish Studies Collection

The Donald R. Keough Family Irish Studies Collection was created in 2000 by Chairman Emeritus of the University’s Board of Trustees Donald R. Keough and his wife, Marilyn. Don retired from Coca-Cola in 1993 as president, chief operating officer, and director and remains an advisor to its board.

The father of six children, five of whom are Notre Dame graduates, Don was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University at Commencement in 1985 — the same day his youngest son received his baccalaureate degree. In 1993, he was awarded the Laetare Medal, the oldest and most prestigious honor given to American Catholics.

With Marilyn, he established the University’s prestigious Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies. The institute, its principal academic chair, Notre Dame’s Irish studies center in Dublin’s historic Newman House, a scholarship, and several library collections all bear the Keough name.

Marilyn Keough, who is active in a variety of organizations in Atlanta, including the Junior League, Forward Arts of Atlanta, Spelman College, and the Shepherd Spinal Center, joined her husband as the recipient of a Notre Dame honorary degree during the dedication ceremonies for the Dublin center in October 1998. A men’s residence hall on the Notre Dame campus also was a gift from the couple and is named for Marilyn.

The existence of the Keough Collection allows the Hesburgh Libraries’ Irish studies librarian to deal directly with Irish booksellers, articulate collection needs, and acquire resulting books and serials in a variety of disciplines, including Irish history, literature, religion, politics, sociology, and culture.

The Keough family supports a second collection at the Named level.