In response to the University’s Irish Fiction Initiative, John and Lenore Madden established the Madden Family Collection in Irish Studies. John Madden (’59, ’62 MA) is board chairman of F.N.B.C. of LaGrange, a holding company of Chicago community banks. He is a life trustee of Fenwick High School, a director of the Chicago Rivet Company, and a member of the Notre Dame Arts and Letters and Ireland advisory councils.

After serving in the United States Coast Guard, John returned to Notre Dame to earn a master’s degree in economics. Father Thomas McDonough, then chairman of the economics department, was a mentor to John. Father McDonough, Father Joe Barry, and Father Glenn Boarman inspired John’s gratitude and his devotion to Notre Dame.

Lenore Hennebry Madden graduated from Saint Mary’s College in 1961. Lenore later earned a master’s degree in library science at Rosary College and now volunteers at the Maryville Academy Library. Maryville, directed by Father John Smyth (’57), is a home for abused and neglected children.

The Maddens have five children: Mary Hayes, John (’85), Martin (’86), Lenore McCarter, and Edward (’91, ’95 JD).

By assisting the libraries in the purchase of the renowned Loeber Collection, a unique repository of Irish fiction and a cornerstone of the University’s Irish Fiction Initiative, the Maddens have made a significant difference at Notre Dame. Their collection has also enabled the acquisition of a number of 18th-century Irish novels, along with other titles of importance to the study and teaching of Irish literature of the 18th through 20th centuries.