Andrew C. and Erin Richardson of New York, New York, established the Charles and Jean Neil Irish Fiction Initiative in 2002. The endowment was established to honor Andy’s maternal grandparents, who have provided limitless love and support to their grandchildren. Andy (’88) earned a bachelor’s degree in business from Notre Dame before pursuing an MBA at the University of Chicago. He began his career with Ernst and Young and then Salomon Smith Barney, and is now executive vice president of iStar Financial Incorporated, the largest publicly traded company focused on commercial real estate finance.

At Notre Dame, Andy serves on the Advisory Council for Graduate Studies and Research, and he and Erin are members of the Edward Frederick Sorin Society. In addition to this endowment, the Richardsons also support an endowed scholarship, an endowed fellowship, and an athletic grant-in-aid.

The University’s Irish Fiction Initiative, with the outstanding Loeber Collection of Irish Fiction at its core, aspires to build the Hesburgh Libraries’ Irish fiction collection into the top collection in the world. The Charles and Jean Neil Irish Fiction Initiative provides critical assistance in this effort by allowing the libraries to fill gaps in that collection and add 20th- and 21st-century Irish fiction in unprecedented depth and strength. The projected result of this will be the strongest collection of fiction relating to Ireland in this country, if not the world.