Eli Shaheen (’34, ’36 JD) taught at the University for five years before serving as an officer in the Army during World War II. A community leader in Sturgis, Michigan, he was the owner and president of the Sutton Tool Company for 41 years before selling the company and forming Sturgis Enterprises. Eli was a member of the Saint Mary’s College Board of Regents for 16 years, serving for a term as president, and a founding member of the Glen Oaks Community College board of trustees from 1967 to 1991. The Saint Mary’s Bookstore and Glen Oaks Library are named for him.

At Notre Dame, Eli served as secretary/treasurer, trustee, and advisor to the Notre Dame Council 1477 of the Knights of Columbus for more than 50 years. In recognition of his service, the Knights of Columbus building on campus was dedicated to him in 1969. Eli and Helen’s two daughters, Christine Broussard and Paula Eide, are graduates of Saint Mary’s College. The Shaheens also supported the Eli and Helen Shaheen Collection in Philosophy, four fellowships in the Law School, the Eli J. Shaheen Endowed Chair in Classics, the Shaheen-Mestrovic Memorial, and two Endowments for Excellence.

The Shaheen Endowment supports the School of Architecture by providing resources on Italian architecture, representing all time periods and ranging from Palladio to 20th-century style. Specifically, it allows the libraries to acquire rare classics and other imprints vital to a superb program in architecture.