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 Architecture, 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 Collection in Philosophy allows the libraries to collect non-Western philosophy and to emphasize the Indian, Japanese, Chinese, and African traditions. It is also used to augment resources in non-Christian classical philosophy and to support the acquisition of expensive rare books that complement or expand existing strengths such as Descartes, George Berkeley, and medieval philosophy. Finally, as full-text electronic products continue to proliferate, this endowment allows the libraries to purchase resources in this area.