James L. Walsh (’30) spent most of his life in Dallas, Texas, residing there from 1918 until his death in 1992. He received his master of laws degree from Southern Methodist University’s School of Law in 1933. Upon graduation, Jim was admitted to the Dallas Bar Association, began his career with Southwestern Life Insurance Company in Dallas, and ultimately became senior vice president and general counsel.

Strong ties to the church and his community were exemplified through his involvement in many organizations. He was a member of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, president of the board of directors of the Catholic Charities of Dallas, president of the Notre Dame Club of Dallas, member of the board of directors of the Catholic Student Center at SMU, and a Knight of Malta. Jim left his entire estate to various charities, including Notre Dame. In addition to this endowment, his estate has funded the James L. Walsh Jr. Endowed Collection in Russian and East European Literature and Culture at the Named level.

The humanities are central to the teaching and research mission of Notre Dame. The very nature of the academic enterprise, however, means that there will be constant shifts in areas of interest, and, on occasion, the Libraries are found wanting in their ability to support research in a particular emerging field of inquiry. Existing allocations are usually unable to deal with these occurrences without placing into jeopardy current acquisitions programs. The James L. Walsh Jr. Endowment for Humanities Research provides a means of addressing these collection needs.