Joseph and Theresa Walsh established the Walsh Family Endowed Collection in Irish Studies. In addition to honoring their son, John (’99), they hope to promote scholarly interest in Irish history, society, and culture through this collection.

Joe, a first-generation Irish-American whose parents came from County Cork; his wife, Terri, who can also trace her ancestry back to County Cork; and their five children have all become Irish citizens. Joe and Terri are active in community service; both are involved in Project Children, an organization that has brought more than 21,000 Catholic and Protestant children from strife-torn Northern Ireland to stay with American host families during the summer months. They also helped found a shelter in New York City for battered women and children.

A graduate of Iona College, Joe is chairman and chief executive officer of the Curtis Circulation Company, the largest distributor of magazines in the world. Before entering private industry, Joe was in senior management at KPMG, a major accounting and auditing firm.

Covering a broad spectrum of Irish history, earnings from this endowment assist in the acquisition of works relating to early and medieval Ireland, Ireland to 1800, the 1798 Revolution, the Catholic question (1690–1830), Protestant dissent in Ireland, and the United Irishmen. The Walsh Endowment also supports resources related to women in Ireland. As much as possible, works of an interdisciplinary nature are also acquired, including titles in Irish art and architecture, archaeology, and literature.