Murphy Library Endowment Fund Update

Nearing the first milestone . . .

By the end of 1994, the Murphy Library Endowment Fund had reached nearly $40,000. In addition, donor support increased substantially. At the beginning of 1993 we had an individual donor pool of 57; this grew to 87 in 1994 for an increase of 53%. Notable donations include an anonymous gift of $10,000 and a challenge gift from Emerson Wulling which resulted in $4105 in contributions. Our corporate and foundation pool increased as well in 1994 with gifts from the Trane Company and the Philip Gelatt Foundation.

The Fund, administered by the UW-L Foundation, was established in 1989 to support and enhance the needs of the library beyond what traditional funding can provide. Monies from the Fund will not be expended until the Fund reaches $50,000. When that level is reached, earnings from the fund can be used to address special needs in the library.

This fund will be critical in meeting the ever increasing costs of materials and technology and allow for the purchase of photographs or unique titles to enrich the collection. The Fund will provide continuing education opportunities for staff in a rapidly changing information society. In addition, it will help meet those needs accompanying the expansion of the library facility.

months of construction, library staff moved into the new addition in January. Special Collections and the film/video collection moved to permanent locations in the new building while others moved to temporary offices and areas. Library staff, custodians and volunteers spent many hours moving offices and collections. Now in its final stages, the project will be completed in May, and library staff will return to newly remodeled offices and work areas. When completed the $7.6 million project will add 50,000 square feet to the existing building. Dedication of the new facility is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, September 17, 1995.

Steamboat Collection. Collection efforts for the library's Steamboat Project continue, with the project now in its twenty-second year. The library holds the nation's largest collection of inland river steamboat photographs, currently at over 42,000 images. Major support has come from the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen, and from private collectors, riverboat buffs, and researchers throughout the United States. Present grant and gift support is being used to copy or purchase old photographs for more comprehensive coverage of this aspect of river history. Endowment Fund gifts may be earmarked for this project, and will become available for use when the $50,000 level is reached.

Thanks to our supporters

Growth in the Endowment Fund is possible because of the generous support of donors from the La Crosse area and beyond. Their giving signifies a belief that the library is a central part of the teaching and research mission of the university and an important educational and business resource in the community. These donations will make a major difference in providing the library with the means to keep up with our users' information needs as we move toward the 21st Century. The Endowment Fund is a pledge of excellence, shared by donors. If you have questions about the fund or wish to make a contribution, please contact Anita Evans, Department Chair (608-785-8805).