Working for the Heart of It . . .

In 1995 the Library Endowment Fund achieved and surpassed an initial goal of $50,000, making it possible for the first time to begin to use fund interest earnings to address special library needs.

The fund, at $58,481 by the close of 1995, grew dramatically since December of 1994 when the balance was approximately $40,000. Continuing contributions, including payroll deductions, along with a very good investment return, pushed the fund over the initial $50,000 goal. Notable donations included a gift from the Philip M. Gelatt Foundation and proceeds of a rummage sale held by library staff and friends. The fund also continues to receive the profits from sales of La Crosse in Light and Shadow, the photographic history of La Crosse co-authored by librarian Ed Hill and local historian Doug Connell.

Library Kiosk. The inaugural purchase made possible with fund earnings will be an information kiosk. Upon entering the library, users will see a kiosk displaying an array of literature assisting them with finding their way around library and explaining library services. Floor plan maps, walking tours, research guides, and library handouts will be available in this prominent location. The kiosk will feature the same design elements of the lobby kiosks, including the newel post which has been incorporated into the new library logo. It is appropriate that this first purchase is one which will be universally useful to a wide range of users and will serve as a visible and attractive reminder of the fund’s benefit to the user community.

Resource Center Dedication. On September 17, 1995, nearly 200 people gathered to dedicate the library addition and re-name the building the Murphy Library Resource Center. Faculty, students, family and friends joined together to celebrate the culmination of many years of planning and preparation. Chancellor Kuipers and Library Director Montgomery addressed the crowd along with Dr. Linda Maik who spoke eloquently on behalf of “Everystudent” and “Everyprofessor.” Following the ceremony, everyone was treated to the sounds of the UW-L Brass Ensemble as library staff greeted guests throughout the building. Library staff and friends will remember 1995 as a year of celebration and accomplishment.

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).