Working for the Heart of It . . .

In 1996 the Library Endowment Fund reached $72,000. We are well on the way to our next goal of $100,000 by the beginning of the 21st century.

Continuing contributions, including payroll deductions, and strong investment returns resulted in substantial growth once again. We are especially grateful to those who make contributions on an annual basis. From our past donor pool of 107, twenty-five have given consecutively in the past two or more years. Nine donors increased the amount they had given since their last donation and there were nine new donors to the Fund. Total contributions by donors was $4641 for 1996. In addition, La Crosse in Light and Shadow, the photographic history of La Crosse, continues to sell well and proceeds of $2250 were added in 1996 to the Fund. Library staff held the second annual rummage sale to benefit the Endowment Fund in May of 1996. It was a time for library staff to come together, have some fun, and raise some money for the Fund. Both UW-L faculty and library staff contributed to the Fund through their donations to the sale and a total of $350.00 was raised. Plans are underway for a third sale later in the Spring.

The library is often referred to as "the heart of the university." A contribution to the Library Endowment Fund benefits every user. Those users include not only UW-L students and faculty, but students and faculty from other institutions, local businesses, and members of the community. A donation to the Murphy Library Endowment fund is a contribution to learning and to our future.

Library and Endowment Fund Highlights

The first purchase using fund earnings was an information kiosk. The kiosk is located near the main library staircase and holds an array of handouts and brochures relating to library resources and services.

Fund earnings also sponsored an all-staff workshop titled Strategic Planning for Improving Teamwork and Communication. Half-day sessions were held in October, with a follow-up session in November.

The Midwest Riverboat Buffs held their spring meeting in La Crosse. The group enjoyed a trip on the Julia Belle Swain sternwheeler and also spent time doing riverboat research in the library.

The Library added many new public computer stations this year with access to the Internet and an array of databases. One new service, EBSCOHost, offers 1000 periodical titles in full-text.

Retired English professor Dr. Emerson Wulling continued his history of contribution to the library with the purchase of a photocopier for Special Collections.

In October and November, State Historical Society Civil War records for La Crosse area soldiers were made available in the Area Research Center. The papers proved to be the most heavily used materials in the Center's history, and, one evening, local reenactors in full military regalia read aloud from the records.

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. Fund 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 Randy Hoelzen, Department
Chair (608-785-8398).