**Working for the Heart of It . . .**

In 1997 the Library Endowment Fund exceeded everyone’s expectations and reached $120,000. Originally we had hoped to attain our goal of $100,000 by the beginning of the 21st century. Now we set our sights on a new goal of $200,000 by the year 2001!

Continuing contributions, including a large gift of stock proceeds, and strong investment returns resulted in substantial growth. We are especially grateful to those who contribute on an annual basis. From our past donor pool of 147, forty-one have given consecutively in the past two or more years. Seventeen donors increased the amount they had given since their last donation, and there were thirty-nine new donors to the Fund. Total contributions by donors was $24,748 in 1997. In addition, *La Crosse in Light and Shadow*, the photographic history of La Crosse by Doug Connell and Ed Hill, continues to sell well. In 1997, proceeds of $2,950 were added to the Fund.

Library staff held the third annual rummage sale to benefit the Endowment Fund in May of 1997. It was a time for library staff to have some fun and raise money for the Fund. UW-L faculty and library staff contributed to the Fund through their donations to the sale, and a total of $410 was raised. A fourth sale will be held on May 16th.

Finally, the marriage of Anita Evans, Interim Library Director, and Larry Lebiecki, Assistant Chancellor, Administrative Services provided a means for family and friends to honor the occasion by making a donation to the library. In lieu of gifts, Anita and Larry requested that donations be made to the Murphy Library Endowment Fund or the General Campus Endowment Fund.

The library is often referred to as "the heart of the university." A contribution to the Library Endowment Fund benefits every library 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.

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**A Special Purchase for the Steamboat Collection**

Last Summer, long-time library supporter Dr. George Gilkey, Emeritus Faculty, History, provided funds enabling the Special Collections department to purchase a rare 1860 glass stereoview of the harbor at New Orleans. Our field collector, Ralph Dupae, found the item at a convention in Seattle and arranged for the sale from a Canadian picture dealer.

The image includes two river steamboats for which we did not have any previous pictures. This represents a truly rare acquisition for the steamboat collection.

**Library Staff Participate in Give-a-**
The Library was the beneficiary of a computer as a result of the Give-a-Minute Incentive Campaign sponsored by the University Foundation. Library staff participated as part of the Fall fundraising effort by the Foundation asking university staff to donate $157, the cost to operate the university for just one minute. The Library was recognized as the large division winner for having the greatest percentage of staff participate, at various levels, in the campaign. This continues a long tradition of giving on the part of the staff to the Library Endowment Fund since its inception in 1989.

The computer is located near the Reference Desk and is an important addition to the growing number of computer workstations provided for library users. The computer allows access to an array of information resources and will be greatly appreciated by Murphy Library patrons.

Adaptive Computer Workstation Purchased

In June 1997, the library purchased equipment for an adaptive workstation which can be used to read scanned print aloud. The Adaptive Technology Workstation was jointly funded by the Murphy Library Endowment Fund and library building funds related to the remodeling project. The total cost of the purchase was $7,413. The Endowment Fund paid $3,290, LRC monies paid $4,048, and the $75 customer training was paid by Disability Resource Services.

Housed in Room 25, now called the Adaptive Technology Room, the workstation is available all hours that the library is open. Staff as well as students may use the equipment. The Government Documents Office can provide some patron assistance and Disability Resource Services is assisting with referrals and training.

The Endowment Fund provided $855 for the purchase of materials in the area of Native American literature. Sun Tracks is a Native American literary series sponsored by the American Indian Studies Program and the Department of English at the University of Arizona. The series publishes many important poets and other writers, and is very much in tune with the latest themes in Native American literary-intellectual circles. The series editor is Ofelia Zepeda and the editorial committee is made up of Vine Deloria, Jr., Larry Evers, Joy Harjo, N. Scott Momaday, Emory Sekaquaptewa, and Leslie Marmon Silko.

The Library has purchased titles in this series over the years, but the library budget did not permit us to buy all of the titles published. Now that American Indian Literature will be taught within the English Department, it is important that we have as many authentic texts by Native Americans as possible. Dr. James Gray plans to have students do a great deal of independent research and these texts will be an important addition to the collection for this course and others.

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).