It was an excellent year for the Murphy Library Endowment Fund, even though the market brought occasional unpleasant news. Contributions from people like you and excellent fund management allowed the Fund to end up in the black. In fact, the fund grew by a total of almost $32,000 in 1998, well on it's way to the goal of $200,000 by 2001.

We wish to extend a special thanks to those who contribute on an regular basis. Not only are there a substantial number of people in the community who donate on a regular basis, but there are also numerous UW-L employees who donate regularly through payroll deductions and other means. We are so proud that people think highly enough of their university library to make these commitments.

Total contributions by donors was $24,748 in 1998. In addition, $x,xxxx was added to the fund from sales of *La Crosse in Light and Shadow*, the photographic history of La Crosse by Doug Connell and Ed Hill.

Library staff continue to do their part in contributing to the Endowment Fund. Staff volunteered for the fourth annual Murphy Library rummage sale to benefit the Endowment Fund in May of 1998. UW-L faculty and staff donated items to the sale, and a record $xxx was raised.

1998 was also the year that members of the Murphy Library staff initiated an internal Jeans Day™ program similar to the city-wide fund raiser of the same name. On the third Friday of each month, Murphy Library staff donate one dollar to the Endowment Fund for the privilege of wearing jeans to work that day.

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.

**A Special Purchase for the Library**

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.
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.

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).