Making the Difference

Twelve years of generous donations to the Murphy Library Endowment are having a real impact on library collections and services. During the year 2000, Endowment Fund gifts made it possible to enhance the collection, improve access to existing resources, provide interactive sessions with experts for the entire UW—La Crosse community, and develop staff abilities through training.

Every year, as the fund grows, the library is able to spend more. Some of the benefits of the $8,190 expended this year are described in detail in this newsletter.

Stock market slumps notwithstanding, the fund balance did end up with a profit. The balance at the beginning of the year was $204,932. Contributions of $7,301 were received in the form of payroll deductions, single gifts and stock gifts, sales of the book La Crosse: In Light and Shadow and profits from other fundraisers. These contributions were offset by the downturn in the stock market leaving the fund with only a small profit of $1,190. The ending balance of the fund was $205,232, which, while indicating a very welcome profit, does represent a significant downturn compared to previous years. Still, the equity of the fund is growing, and when the investment forecast becomes more positive, the fund will be in a good position to profit significantly.

The remarkable growth of the Endowment Fund is attributable to the generous support of donors from the La Crosse area and beyond. The contributions of friends, UW-L employees, and library staff signify a belief that the library is central to the teaching and research mission of the university and an important educational and business resource in the community.

The university has truly benefited from the generous contributions that come from people like you. The staff of Murphy Library would like to take this opportunity to offer our most sincere thanks. Your tax-deductible donations to the fund make a major difference in providing the library with the means to keep up with our users’ information needs as we move into the 21st century. The Endowment Fund is a pledge of excellence, shared by donors.

An Artistic Endeavor

An exciting new fundraiser is on the horizon. With two initial donors, Emerson and Jean Wulling and George Gilkey, the library, in cooperation with the UW-L Foundation, has commissioned internationally known American artist Michael Blaser to paint a La Crosse river scene. Ed Hill, Special Collections Librarian Emeritus, initiated these efforts and is working with the Endowment Fund Committee on the project. The resulting prints should be available for sale around October 2001, in time for the holiday season. Plans are under way for a gala unveiling ceremony, which will be announced at a later date. The entire La Crosse area is expected to benefit from this significant artistic offering.
Gary Young, Book Artist and Poet, Visits UW-La Crosse

Gary Young, poet, editor, printer, and book artist from California, visited the UW-La Crosse campus the week of April 10-14, 2000. Mr. Young’s visit to UW-La Crosse was sponsored by the Murphy Library Endowment Fund with additional support from the College of Liberal Studies; UW-L Foundation; and Sutton Hoo Press.

Mr. Young has won the Peregrin Smith Poetry Prize for his book *Braver Deeds*, the James D. Phelan Award, a Pushcart Prize, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has also received several Book of the Year awards from the American Institute of Graphic Artists.

As reflected by his various talents in the book arts, Gary was involved in a variety of programming activities while on campus. During the week, Gary led printing demonstrations at Professor Chad Oness’ Sutton Hoo Press in Wing Communications Center. As part of the College of Liberal Studies and School of Arts and Communication “Voices of Our Time” lecture series, Gary gave a poetry reading.

The highlight of his visit was on April 12 when Gary gave the second annual Emerson G. Wulling Lecture in the Art and History of the Book in the Cleary Alumni Center Conference Room. The topic of the lecture was “Mallarme and the World of the Book.” Gary’s own book, *My Place Here Below*, was purchased for Special Collections in part by the Murphy Library Endowment Fund and was the centerpiece for the reception at the first annual Wulling Lecture in 1999.

Endowment Funds Aid Special Collections

This year, Murphy Library Endowment Fund awards will help preserve and make accessible material in the Special Collections Department of Murphy Library. $1,000 was awarded to make prints of unprinted negatives from the Steamboat Collection. Special Collections has some 25,000 unprinted negatives of steamboats and this award is the initial step in reducing that backlog. The staff of Special Collections has used the funds to select and print 194 new 5 x 7 inch prints as of February 2001. The staff is also using this opportunity to identify and compare all the photographic images of a steamboat, both prints...
and negatives, to select the best negatives to print and to weed out duplicate images.

Another award of $451 went to purchase new reel-to-reel tapes. Special Collections needed to acquire blank reel-to-reel tapes in order to transfer and preserve the oldest interviews in its oral history collection. Sixty-five interviews dating prior to 1970 needed to be transferred. The recommended lifespan of audio tape is 20 to 25 years and these tapes are all older than 30 years. Transferring these old interviews to new tape will also assist in the oral history cataloging project that is currently underway. With the assistance of a federal grant from the National Historical Publications Records Commission, Murphy Library hired a cataloger for a year to catalog the entire oral history collection. The preservation of the oral history collection is a necessary component of that project, and the Endowment Fund award has been instrumental in making that goal possible.

**APS Funded**

Historians have long recognized the strong research value of periodicals as important source materials, but locating issues from rare 18th and 19th century periodicals has been a difficult and expensive research project, one that was simply out of reach for most students. Recognizing the problems associated with doing historical research, the University of Michigan’s William L. Clements Library and English Department partnered to start a microfilm project that would make these rare periodicals available to libraries everywhere. The resulting American Periodicals Series (APS) includes more than 1100 periodicals covering 1741-1900 and is divided into three sections: 18th Century, 1800-1850, and 1850-1900.

Murphy Library owned the first two sections of APS for many years. Library users, however, may not have known about this resource because the hundreds of microfilm reels were not included in the library catalog. With support from the Murphy Endowment Fund, the library was able to purchase bibliographic records for the series and load them into the library catalog.

Murphy Library holds the complete set for APS I (18th Century). Thirty-three microfilm reels containing 88 periodicals trace the evolution of the American magazine from two 1741 publications written by Benjamin Franklin and Andrew Bradford. Titles included in this set include the *Columbian Magazine* and the *New-York Magazine*.

Murphy Library holds an incomplete set for APS II (1800-1850): we are missing units 26-48 (reel numbers 974-1966). Subjects include the westward expansion and the growth of nationalism. Many religious periodicals, and popular magazines are included. *Godey’s Lady’s Book* and *Saturday Evening Post* are two significant titles from this time period.

In addition to access through the library catalog, an index to the APS is located in the reference section at Z6951 .H65. This useful tool, titled *American Periodicals 1741-1900: an Index to the Microfilm Collections*, contains title, subject, editor, and reel number indexes.

**Latin American Titles Purchased**

The Endowment Fund made it possible to acquire books on Latin America to enrich the library’s holdings in that area. During the summer of 1999 Isolina Battistozzi, Professor of Spanish, worked
with Karin Sandvik, Collection Development Librarian, to expand library holdings in Latin American topics. The goal was to provide students with an opportunity to examine the cultural life of countries with which UW-L has student exchange and intern programs. A University of Wisconsin System grant proposal to assist teachers in internationalizing the curriculum, which included expanding library holdings, was also a factor.

This project came to a sudden halt when Isolina died unexpectedly in January 2000. Library staff determined that a fitting way to honor her memory was to acquire at least some of the titles she had suggested. Collection Development turned to the Endowment Fund to request the resources to make it possible. Friends of Isolina, Drs. Gary Kuhn, History, Rich Pinnell, Music, and members of the Foreign Language Department made suggestions for materials to be included in the collection. The collection was created to reflect Isolina’s vision and includes music of the area which Isolina loved, materials that address concerns of Latin American women, and art of the region.

The Library was fortunate enough to receive much of Dr. Battistozzi’s personal library. With the help of the Endowment Fund we have both honored Isolina and made it possible for our students to better understand Latin American culture.

**Sun Tracks Series Continuation**

The Endowment Fund has generously supported and funded efforts to develop and expand the book collection beyond the normal limits of the book budget. A newly developed course in Native American Literature, taught by Dr. James Gray of the English Department, could only be launched if the library added extensively to the existing collection of materials in this area. Under Dr. Gray’s guidance, materials were chosen that best represent Native American literature, including many titles that were published in the Sun Tracks series by the University of Arizona Press.

The Sun Tracks series is among the longest running and most influential forums for new writing by and about Native Americans. The series became the core of the collection, and additional titles that fit the collection are still being purchased. Starting in the 1980's the Sun Tracks series made such respected authors as N. Scott Momaday, Larry Evers, and Felipe Molina accessible, and so led to a better understanding of the thoughts and aspirations of Native Americans. Its current list offers several important individual writers such as Momaday (a Kiowa poet, novelist, and painter widely acknowledged as a trailblazer for a whole generation of young writers); the Navajo poets Luci Tapahonso and Nora Naranjo-Morse; the Acoma poet Simon Ortiz; and the Osage poet Carter Revard.

The Sun Tracks’ editorial board includes some of the most-recognized names of the "Native American Renaissance" of the last thirty years, including Momaday himself; the anthropologist Larry Evers; Leslie Marmon Silko, whose novel, *Ceremony*, is considered by many to be the best ever written by an American Indian writer; the poet Joy Harjo; and the Lakota theologian and polemicist Vine Deloria, Jr. Under their stewardship, Sun Tracks has consistently sought out and published authoritative books on the concerns of Native Americans, representing them accurately and fairly.

Contributions to the Endowment Fund have allowed Murphy Library to continue building this collection. The Sun Tracks series has served as a guide, assuring that the collection would include only the most representative writings of Native Americans.

If you have questions about the Fund or wish to make a contribution, please contact Cristine Prucha, Department Chair (608) 785-8637.