Thanks for your support . . .

The Murphy Library staff would like to thank all of our donors for their generous contributions last year and in previous years. With your generous financial contributions the Murphy Library Endowment and Recognition Committee was able to provide $8,479 for library-related projects during the year. Because of the State-wide budget cuts, these funds are increasingly important for the Library to support the University’s dynamic programs of teaching, research and public service. A few of the projects funded this past year are highlighted in this fund report.

Sales of Ed Hill’s and Doug Connell’s pictorial book La Crosse: In Light and Shadow continue at a good pace as does Michael Blaser’s steamboat print, August Moon: The Steamer Avalon Arrives at La Crosse, 1950. If you are interested in purchasing either work, contact Special Collections at 608-785-8511. Both of these projects not only drew upon the Library’s rich collections of local history, but have helped raise money for the fund. To find out more, or to view a complete list of donors and previously funded projects, visit our web site: http://www.uwlax.edu/murphylibrary/endowment/endow.html.

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 make a major difference in providing the library with the means to keep up with our users’ ever changing information needs.

Artwork Enhances the Library

Continuing a tradition of using the Endowment funding to purchase student art, two pieces were added to the Library’s permanent collection this year. The Effect of Teenage Curiosity, an intaglio print with brilliant warm colors by Misha Welch is featured in a lounge area adjacent to the leisure reading collection on the second floor.

A wood abstract sculpture by Ken Rowe, Pattern #1 is exhibited in the new Waddell tower display case, also purchased with Endowment funds. The metal and oak display case allows viewing from all sides. The 3-dimension artwork in the case compliments the Art Across Campus revolving collection of student art also located on the east side of the first floor.

Other pieces now exhibited in the display case from the library’s permanent collection are a pair of antique ivory figureines representing a Chinese emperor and empress seated on a throne donated by Professor Emeritus Ruth Nixon Davy and, from the Gertrude and Otto Natzler Collection, Cherry Red Bottle (1961) and Sang de Boeuf Tray (1940).

The Natzler pottery collection was a gift of Mrs. Reuben Trane. The artwork enlivens the library study spaces and is a wonderful enhancement to Murphy Library’s environment.

Library Collections

The Endowment Fund has been especially important in recent years for development of the library’s book and multimedia collections. The Library’s budget for resources has remained static despite crippling double-digit inflationary price increases. The net result has been a significant decrease in purchasing power. Because of these budgetary pressures, Endowment monies are especially crucial. Funding is typically applied to create new collections, erase collection deficiencies, or enhance parts of the collection directly related to new university curricular needs, which the normal library budget cannot address adequately. The Endowment Fund is especially
helpful in tailoring a portion of the library’s collection to faculty members’ or programs’ specific research and teaching needs. Ultimately, everyone benefits from such funding as the library collection expands in both quality and volume.

Evidence of various Endowment awards abounds throughout Murphy Library. One only needs to browse the various collections and note the numerous Endowment bookplates to get an idea how Endowment funds have historically been applied.

For instance, Endowment awards have improved the library’s multicultural and technology resource holdings through recent purchases that expanded literature collections in languages other than English. Since numerous new faculty from various disciplines are teaching in this area, having more resources for students to utilize is critical.

Another use of Endowment funding has been to continue expanding the ever popular Karin Sandvik Leisure Reading Collection. This collection, despite its small size, proves to be one of the most heavily used in the library, accounting for over 3% of all circulations. Many of the items have circulated more than 10 times in the short time this collection has been in place. Finally, the Leisure Reading collection would never have been fully developed and become so popular were it not for this funding source.

**Endowment Fund Aids Preservation & Digitization Efforts**

**Lansing, Iowa Glass Plate Negative Collection**

Special Collections was awarded $800 last spring by the Murphy Library Endowment Fund to help preserve a collection of 300 glass plate negatives from Lansing, Iowa. Most of the collection is from a professional photographer named McGarrity, who lived in Lansing. The glass plate negatives date from approximately 1874 to 1900. The collection was discovered a few years ago when the historic building in Lansing where McGarrity had his photographic studio was sold. The contents of the building were auctioned off, which included the glass plates that have been loaned to Special Collections by the owner. Some negatives were damaged but most still have legible images, and some are in excellent condition.

Subject matter of the glass plates includes street scenes of Lansing, individual and family portraits, farmsteads, daily and domestic living, and Mississippi River related scenes. Special Collections is especially interested in the river images which include steamboats, log rafts, fishing, swimming, picnics, wharf buildings, and saw mills. The money from the Endowment Fund is being used for storage supplies and to make copy negatives and copy prints. The addition of these images to our collection will strengthen our nationally known Steamboat Photo Collection, especially our concentration of steamboat images on the Upper Mississippi River.

**Digitization of 1881 La Crosse County History**

There has been a concerted effort in the last year, spearheaded by the Library Systems & Technology unit, to digitize some of the early published histories and photo souvenir books of La Crosse in the holdings of Special Collections, Murphy Library. The classic 19th century history book for the La Crosse area is the *History of La Crosse County*, by C.W. Butterfield and published in 1881 by the Western Historical Company from Chicago, Illinois. Thanks to an Endowment Fund award last year, this work has now been digitized. The digitized version contains all the images of the original and text can be searched electronically. The scanned text, which has errors due to limitations of scanning software, has not been corrected. If you would like to volunteer to assist in correcting the text, please let us know by contacting the library or by clicking on the “Volunteer” button at the top of each web page of the digitized collections.

Also digitized was the name index for this volume compiled by Murphy Library in 1976. These books are available through the Murphy Library web site at [http://murphylibrary.uwlax.edu/digital/lacrosse/digitizedcollections.html](http://murphylibrary.uwlax.edu/digital/lacrosse/digitizedcollections.html)