2010 was a year of continued growth for the Endowment Fund, with donors contributing a total of $16,952. Through these generous donations, the fund grew to a year-end balance of $332,636.

Murphy Library has been engaged in a project to digitize the entire run of the Racquet, the UW-La Crosse student newspaper. The digitization work, which includes archival-quality scanning, creation of searchable text, and logical organization, has been done by Northern Micrographics of La Crosse.

To date, we have digitized all issues from 1910/11 (the first publication year) to 1969/70 and also from 2000/01 to the current year. This year’s endowment funding has made it possible to digitize another four years in the 30-year gap from 1970 – 2000.

Students, staff, and community members frequently ask to view older Racquets, sometimes to research specific topics and sometimes to simply explore campus life in previous times. With no other archives of the Racquet available, Murphy Library’s archival collection fills a unique need. The digitized version of the Racquet is available at this link: http://murphylibrary.uwlax.edu/digital/uwl/racquet/

For a donation of $50, Murphy Library will place a commemorative book plate in a newly-purchased book in a broad subject area of the donor’s choice. For details, contact the library or visit the Endowment Fund web page.
Supporting the theme of the first floor’s Collaborative Learning Information Commons (CLIC), the library used Endowment Fund monies to purchase five iPads for students to use for mobile learning and discovery. The iPads, along with the existing laptop-checkout program, encourage students to take the technology they need with them for both individual learning and planned or ad-hoc group experiences.

The iPads come preloaded with a variety of educational apps as well as a short survey related to how students prefer to use them. They are available for check out within the building for a period of two hours, with a renewal possible if no one is waiting to use one.

We thank Endowment Fund donors for making this very popular resource available to students at UW-L.

Digitization of 16mm Films

Thanks to endowment funding, two films of historical significance are now available on DVD. The films were converted from 16 mm film by VIP Dubs, a Madison, WI, based company.

"River City: A History” was done by Ed Hill, emeritus special collections librarian, and others in 1976 and contains a wealth of local images, some of which no longer exist. The second film, which has been requested in the past by library patrons, is "Rhythmical Gymnastics Using Indian Clubs" and features emeriti Professor Hans Reuter demonstrating the use in Indian Clubs in Dr. McClennan’s class at WSU-La Crosse in January 1968.

Benefits of this conversion include that they can be used with current technologies and that they are in a much more stable format and are more likely to hold up over the long term.

Multicultural Children’s Program Spring 2010

Thanks to the Endowment Fund and co-sponsorship by the UW-L School of Education and the Office of Campus Climate and Diversity, the Alice Hagar Curriculum Center hosted a program on African American children’s literature. This was the fourth in the annual series of programs on children’s literature held in the curriculum center.

The program took place on April 15, 2010, and was titled African American Children’s Literature: A Discussion of History and Books for PK-Middle School. Presentations were given by Dr. Darwin L. Henderson, Associate Professor, Literacy and Early Childhood Education, University of Cincinnati. As in past years, two separate presentations were given for pre-service and in-service teachers.

The program was well-attended and drew considerable praise from participants.

Dr. Darwin L. Henderson, Associate Professor, Literacy and Early Childhood Education, University of Cincinnati