

2024 Endowment Fund Report

Murphy Library, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

The Murphy Library Endowment Fund is a pledge of excellence shared by donors who believe that the library is a central part of the teaching and research mission of the university. Donors, like you, supported this pledge with generous gifts contributing to a 2024 year-end balance of **\$611,984**. The Murphy Library community extends its sincere gratitude for your contribution. Your individual, tax-deductible gifts directly support student success, faculty research and community access to information through the many varied resources of Murphy Library. This report highlights some of the many ways in which your contributions have benefitted all those who use Murphy Library.

MURPHY AWARD: HONORING A LEGACY

The Eugene W. Murphy Library Special Recognition Award, established in 1986, was most recently awarded posthumously to G. David Thomson Jr. of Sun Valley, California. The award recognizes those who have significantly contributed toward advancing the library's mission. All through his life, Dave collected materials on steamboats and their history. An unexpected passing in 2021 left his collection of artifacts, memorabilia and ephemera in limbo. His brother, Darryl, began searching for a new home for this large collection. Known for our nationally renowned status as a repository for steamboat history, Darryl identified Murphy Library as the perfect home for Dave's collection. Even with a collection already boasting over 40,000 steamboat photographs, Dave's donation is a substantial addition that brings new dimensions to the library's holdings. Dave's significant contribution not only enriches the library's resources, but also strengthens its reputation as a leading authority on historic inland-river steamboats.

ONE DAY FOR MURPHY LIBRARY



\$6,644

Funds raised

42

Total donors

WHAT'S YOUR WHY?

"It has been said that 'a university is only as good as its library.' I have firsthand knowledge that echoes that sentiment. As a faculty member, I know that our library is excellent -- especially for a university of our size. The library staff do a marvelous job allocating the resources in their budget, getting 'the most bang for the buck.' Also, as a father of five UWL alumni, I've been aware of my grown children's use of the library, and I can say with confidence that it has met all of their college course needs."

—Professor William Ross,
Management



UWL
MURPHY LIBRARY

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS

Here are just a few of the many projects made possible through the Murphy Library Endowment Fund.



RIDING THROUGH TIME

Thanks to your support, Murphy Library created two exhibits featuring rarely seen images of early motorcycling from its *Arthur E. Roth Photograph Collection*. This archival collection illustrates Roth's life as a mail carrier, mechanic and racer, including his 1912 cross-country journey from Wisconsin to Niagara Falls.

Roth's photographs offer a fascinating glimpse into motorcycle history, capturing one-of-a-kind images of vintage Harley-Davidsons and Indian Motorcycles. This remarkable library collection reveals a unique chapter of American transportation history and the daring spirit of early motorcyclists.



NEW TECH, MORE RESOURCES

Did you know that some valuable library materials are only available on microfilm? This posed a challenge for student and community researchers when the library's microfilm reader broke! Fortunately, the Endowment Fund enabled the purchase of two vital pieces of technology: a replacement microfilm reader and a negative digitization kit. The first investment ensures continued library access to microfilm-only resources, while the second allows the library to post even more historic images to its Digital Collections.



STEP INTO HISTORY

Murphy Library has brought the past to life in a fun and interactive way! The new life-sized standees, featuring enlarged archival photos of past UWL students, let visitors pose for a picture with their predecessors. It's a nostalgic and educational journey through time, made possible by donors.

Questions about Endowment Fund contributions can be directed to the UWL Foundation, foundation@uwlax.edu, 608.785.8489.