In 2013 donors generously gave $13,652 to the Murphy Library Endowment Fund. Through these generous donations, the fund grew to a year-end balance of $424,680.50.

The 7th annual Multicultural Children’s Literature event was titled “What we should know about native people: a writer’s perspective” and took place in April 2013. Thomas and Betsy Peacock spoke to record-breaking crowds in the Alice Hagar Curriculum Center using stories written by Peacock for the occasion. Thomas is a member of the Ojibwe Tribe of Northern Wisconsin and is a children’s book author and university professor at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and Troy University in Tampa Bay.

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.

This year’s event also branched out in a new collaboration with North Woods International elementary school. Local educators came to North Woods to hear Peacock speak and read from one of his books for children, “The Four Hills of Life,” about the cycles of life that follow the seasons.

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Preserving history through Digital Collections

The library’s digitization capabilities were greatly improved with equipment purchased with assistance from the Endowment Fund. The equipment includes a full-frame digital SLR camera/lens that mounts on an adjustable copy stand, continuous lighting units, a large-format flatbed scanner with transparency unit, and a dedicated computer with specialized software to run the equipment, capture, and process content.

With these tools, the library now has a professional, full-fledged digitization production unit that creates images and content that meet the highest digital archival standards. The digitized collections now hold tens of thousands of images or digital objects that are historically and culturally significant to UWL and the surrounding community.

View these collections at: www.uwlax.edu/murphylibrary/digital-collections

Learning about native people through literature

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Thank You for Your Contributions!

We sincerely thank you for your generosity and continued support. This report highlights the fund at work, showing how your generous contributions help advance the mission of the library and the university.
Art meets science

This year, the library’s collaboration with Dr. Tim Gerber of biology took the 8th annual STEM Teacher Resource Day into new – artistic – territory. With the addition of “Art” the acronym becomes STEAM: for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics, reflecting how art is so intertwined with the other disciplines.

As part of Teacher Resource Day programming, Gerber and Murphy Library staff identify and order the best award-winning books every year, adding to the library’s impressive and ever-expanding collection. With this year’s addition of art books, the Endowment Fund helped that collection become more rich and diverse in subject matter.

During the Teacher Resource Day event, the books are displayed on tables in the Curriculum Center. More than 220 education students, instructors, local educators, local school media specialists, and others interested in children’s literature came to peruse the books, have a word with Gerber, and explore the collection of free, credible web sources that he has curated on the library web site.

Purchase of Historic Steamboat Photographs

With the assistance of the Endowment Fund, Murphy Library’s Special Collections purchased 16 steamboat photographs from the collection of Mr. Franklin Phillips of Edwardsville, Illinois. The library had previously purchased historic steamboat photographs from Mr. Phillips’s collection, and when more photos became available, the Special Collections librarian identified those that would be noteworthy additions to Murphy Library’s collection.

The images purchased include two Civil-War era Union gunboats, the Mendota and Monkassett. Other images offer new views of old favorites The St. Paul, Betsy Ann, and Keystone State; a rare view of the Black Warrior on the Pearl River; and even an unpowred flatboat, the N. Brown. The prints measure 16” x 20.”