GREAT RECESSION?
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – JAMES GREGORY

THE FINAL SCENE OF MICHAEL MOORE’S NEW MOVIE captures the frustration that many of us feel this year. With a huge roll of yellow police tape, he wraps the ground floor offices of Citicorp and other banks responsible for the global economic melt-down, strapping them in a barrier that reads “Crime Scene Do Not Enter.”

This has been a troubled year. People have lost jobs, homes, pensions, retirement savings, and sometimes also hope and dignity. The Bridges Center has, in a much more modest sense, also struggled. Our budget has been slashed 40 percent and we have lost the services of our good friend and student assistant Mayra Rangel. Even so, the Bridges Center is getting by. We have cut back on the scholarships and grants we award and have rearranged activities and programs, finding ways to do more with less.

Some call this the “great recession.” If so, then something great must come from it. The Great Depression was more than an economic collapse. Out of the pain of the early 1930s working people developed an activist spirit and built new unions, new politics, and ultimately a new economy based on a foundation of greater equality. What will we do to redeem this economic collapse? How will the Great Recession earn its greatness?

In our corner, the project that shows the most promise is the initiative to build a Labor Archive for Washington State — an archive to preserve and honor our labor heritage and make sure that future generations understand the ways that working people and their unions built what is valuable about this state and nation.

In June, the ILWU issued a challenge that the rest of us cannot ignore. It committed $50,000 in matching funds for the Archive. 

ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

YOU ARE INVITED! Once again, we will host our faculty, staff and community members for dinner and drinks to recognize our achievements for the year. Those who have attended in years past can attest — good food, great friends, it’s a fun time!

Join us as we honor our latest student award winners, unveil our latest public history and research projects, and promote the Washington State Labor Archive.

Plus, meet and hear our special guests University of Washington President Mark Emmert and Washington State Labor Council President Rick Bender.

Due to past high attendance, we ask that people reserve tickets in advance, free of charge.

Please reserve your free tickets today by contacting the Bridges Center at (206) 543-7946 or pcls@u.washington.edu. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Sunday, November 15, 2009 • 5-8PM
Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall • University of Washington, Seattle

Celebrate Labor Studies – Support the Labor Archive!

SPONSOR A TABLE! The banquet this year is raising funds for the Washington State Labor Archive. We ask organizations that have not already given, and our friends who have the means to do so, to sponsor a table by making a donation of $500 or $1,000 to the Labor Archive Fund.

All table sponsors will receive a mention in the program and inclusion on a Labor Archives Founders Circle plaque that will become part of the Harry Bridges Memorial Statue in the University of Washington library.

Those wishing to give at a lower lever may send a check in advance or donate at the Celebration.

All donations are tax-deductible. To sponsor a table, please contact the Bridges Center at (206) 543-7946 or pcls@u.washington.edu, or send a check payable to “UW Foundation – Labor Archives Fund” to Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, University of Washington, UW Box 353530, Seattle, WA 98195-3530.
A CENTRAL FUNCTION OF THE BRIDGES CENTER is the awarding of its many prizes and scholarships supporting working class students and promoting the study of labor. Below is a description of the awards we have made for the upcoming year. The winners will be honored at our Annual Awards celebration, to occur Sunday, November 15, 2009. Please look elsewhere in this newsletter for more information on the celebration.

Scholarships and Prizes

Each year the Bridges Center gives a large scholarship to outstanding undergraduates who demonstrate a commitment to labor research or practice. These awards are named after longtime International Longshore and Warehouse Union member and leaders Martin “Jug” Jumag and his wife Anne.

Laura O’Neill: As a high school student, Laura spent two summers working closely with coffee farmers in the Dominican Republic and her dedication to labor studies has only increased since her enrollment at the University of Washington. An active member of United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) and the Student Labor Action Project (SLAP), Laura has been working diligently in SLAP’s effort with UW custodial staff to combat detrimental budget cuts. Her academic concentration is also strongly focused on labor. In Summer 2009, she traveled to Bangalore, India to study social justice activism, and she has additional plans to travel abroad to Quito, Ecuador to continue her studies and activism on behalf of the labor movement.

Matt Reed: An International Studies major, Matt was introduced to the labor movement during his freshman year in college and he has been an avid activist ever since. His involvement in SLAP has allowed him a wealth of opportunities to work with a variety of organizations and unions, including SEIU 932 and the Washington Federation of State Employees. During his time at the University of Washington, Matt has developed a strong belief that as a student, he should not simply learn about the labor struggle, but take an active role in it. “I realized that simply being knowledgeable about the plight of labor organizing meant little if I did not apply my knowledge,” Matt explains.

Martha H. Duggan Fellowship in Labor Studies

A graduate student fellowship served with acknowledging the invaluable contributions of caring labor, the award was created in 2004 to honor the memory of Martha Duggan, wife of Robert Duggan. Both Bob and Marty were founding supporters of the endowed Chair in Labor Studies, as well the Bridges Center.

David Giles, Doctoral candidate, Anthropology. As an activist, ethnographer, and scholar, David Giles brings a unique social movement perspective to caring labor. For the last four years, David has worked intimately with the Seattle chapter of Food Not Bombs (FNB). FNB, in David’s words, “is an emergent form of global, decentralized, grassroots social network; a movement of autonomous groups which provide food that would other wise have been thrown away, distribute it for free in public places to a clientele of largely homeless persons and activists, and in the process call attention to the social and economic disparities in their societies.”

David’s work addresses both the local and global aspects of FNB, drawing upon oral histories, archival records, his own experience and more, in order to “facilitate further conversation between Food Not Bombs, similar social movements, and academic students, teachers, and researchers.”

Best Paper Prize

The Bridges Center holds an annual competition for the best Labor Studies papers written in the previous year by graduate and undergraduate students.

Undergraduate

George Robertson, History, for Brotherhood across the seas: Black internationalism and transnational labor solidarity in the National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards, 1945-1955.

Graduate

Jon Agnone, Sociology, for Racial Inequality in Wealth: Do Labor Unions Matter?

Labor and Employment Relations Association Scholarship

Each year, the Seattle chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, an organization of professionals interested in industrial relations and human resources, provides $1,000 for a scholarship in support of an outstanding student committed to pursing a profession in labor and/or labor management.

Lila Zucker, Sociology. Lila has worked ardentely towards the improvement of labor rights for over five years through a variety of organizations including jobs with Justice and the Student Labor Action Project. Over the past two years, Lila was part of a labor studies research project where she worked closely with the ILWU, and has traveled abroad to South Africa. She plans on continuing her work with the labor movement after college as a labor organizer.

Washington State Labor Research

Since 2005, the HARRY BRIDGES CENTER for Labor Studies has received funding from the Washington State Legislative to support research by UW faculty on labor-related issues in the state. The grant encourages scholars to apply their national or global research in ways that demonstrate implications for, or relevance to, the State of Washington. So far for 2009-2010 we have funded one project.

Margaret Levi, Department of Political Science

The Past and Future of Health Coverage in the US

As current national debates make clear, the United States health care system has been in crisis for decades. Historically, the business community has opposed nationalized health care, setting the stage for the current system of employer-provided coverage. Meanwhile, without a national government health care plan, individual states have adopted local fixes. Washington State is one of several that have taken steps towards comprehensive health care reform. What has labor’s role been in shaping health care reform in Washington State? This project will attempt to answer this question through interviews with state labor organizations, a close study of union policy and state legislation, and other historical research.

2008-2009 Washington State Labor Research Reports

A requirement of the Washington State Labor Research grant is the production of a report outlining the results of the funded research, to be written with the public in mind. The reports provide information directly relevant to policy-makers, public interest groups and other researchers.

Scholarships and Prizes

Thank you to the ILWU! $50,000 in matching grants for the Washington State Labor Archive

This summer at their international convention held in Seattle, not only did the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) endorse the effort to create a Labor Archive for Washington State — their Longshore Division pledged to provide up to $50,000 in matching funds to the archive fund-raising drive over the next three years. For every dollar donated to the Archive from 2009 to 2012, the ILWU will match that donation up to $50,000 for each year.

From a union that understands the importance of history perhaps more than any other, this is a most generous challenge to the labor community to raise the money needed to make the Washington Labor Archive a central function of The Bridges Center.

With the help of union locals, individual donors and others, the fundraising goals of the Labor Archive will soon be in sight. Many thanks to our friends at the ILWU for making this happen.
State Labor Archive Organizing Committee, recently, as a member of the Washington Committee in 1997, Ian Kennedy has distinguished supporter award ward.

Thanks to the internet, this research is now more accessible than groups, conferences and more. Labor Studies research projects through grant programs, supporting cutting-edge research is a central part of our mission. Since 1992, the Bridges Center has sponsored over a hundred research projects, original research based in faculty/community partnerships.

Newest additions:
- Updates on our five Labor Studies working groups, original research based in faculty/community partnerships
- Latest information on our Washington State Labor Research program, sponsoring in-depth labor policy and industry analysis
- Streaming video of past events, including author Bill Fletcher, Jr. and the 90th anniversary of the Seattle General Strike

Thanks to the internet, this research is now more accessible than groups, conferences and more.

Important Labor Studies insights into contemporary policy issues: globalization, health care, education, immigration, and more

International Labor Studies perspectives on Asia, Latin America, Europe, Oceania and more

Popular education materials documenting over a century of Washington State labor movement history

DISTINGUISHED SUPPORTER AWARD

EACH YEAR THE BRIDGES CENTER HONORS a significant faculty or community supporter with the Robert Duggan Distinguished Supporter of Labor Studies Award. The award allows us to recognize those individuals who have contributed to the success of the Bridges Center since its beginning.

Ian Kennedy

Since joining the Bridges Center Visiting Committee in 1993, Ian Kennedy has provided invaluable guidance and support to many Bridges Center programs. Most recently, as a member of the Washington State Labor Archive Organizing Committee, Ian’s hard work was instrumental in gaining the ILWU Longshore Division’s pledge of up to $50,000 a year in matching funds for donations to the Archive over the next three years. While born in Maine, Ian was raised in Seattle. After pursuing math and engineering in college and working for a time in engineering, Ian returned to school and acquired a Fine Arts degree. He then worked in animation, teaching, and painting, among other things, before beginning work on the waterfront in 1975 as a casual marine clerk.

Soon, Ian would become active in the labor movement, joining in organizing efforts led by his brother, Jim Kennedy, for casuals to become part of ILWU Local 52. After his brother passed away, Ian took on his role as a leader, guiding a successful campaign to raise the clerks’ union status from “B” to “A” level. Ian has since served as a member of the local’s Labor Relations Committee, and then as President of the local, before retiring in 2003.

Now, Ian enjoys spending time with his family. Together they have traveled the world, visiting Africa three times, Europe, Central and South America, and snorkeling local in many capacities, as a member of the ILWU’s Longshore Division’s Labor Relations Committee, and then as President of the local, before retiring in 2003.

In 1992 when the Bridges Chair was created through contributions from a thousand individuals. Pat had visited Harry Bridges in 1990 in San Francisco shortly before Bridges passed away. A longtime supporter of Bridges, Pat eagerly took up fund raising activities on behalf of creating the only endowed chair in the country named for a labor leader.

Elected Vice President of ILWU Local 19 in 1987, Pat Vikich became President from 1989 to 1991 and then again from 1992 to 1994. From these leadership positions in the Longshore Union Pat provided keen insights into the development of the Chairs Chair and crucial early support to guarantee its success. Over the subsequent decade and a half, Pat remained a key contributor to the Bridges Chair and the Bridges Center for Labor Studies. Pat’s contributions made a critical difference in bringing labor studies to the UW and in preparing a seat for labor at the UW table of learning.

Born in Chisholm, Minnesota on May 18, 1945, Pat passed away on October 10, 2008 after a brief illness. Pat left Chisholm and the Iron Range shortly after high school to seek work, coming to Seattle in 1959. He began working at the “banana dock” in 1960 and from there worked on the waterfront until 1968 when he achieved Class A status within the ILWU.

Pat engaged in numerous union activities, including election to the Executive Board of Local 19 in 1977, serving as a delegate to International Conventions and Caucuses and helping found the Waterfront Credit Union. When not involved in Union affairs, Pat worked as a certified crane operator for 20 years. Passionate about safety and fairness issues on the waterfront, Pat earned the respect of Longshoremen from Hawaii, Alaska, Canada and the West Coast.

Hundreds of Pat’s friends and co-workers from up and down the Coast attended a memorial service at the Black Diamond Eagles Club where a “tarpaulin muster” raising funds for the Executive Board, were donated to the Bridges Chair in Pat Vikich’s name.

NEW BRIDGES CENTER VISITING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Robert McElrath, International President of the ILWU since 2006, hails from Vancouver, WA, where he worked the waterfront beginning in 1969. As a member of ILWU Local 5, McElrath served as a member of its Executive Board, its Labor Relations Committee and its Memorial Building Association. He also served as the Local’s dispatcher and as a delegate to the Longshore Caucus and the International Convention since the 1980s. Before becoming President, McElrath served as International Vice President from 2000 to 2006.

Herald Ugles is former president of Seattle’s ILWU Local 19, and was recently elected to the ILWU’s International Executive Board. Over the years, Ugles has played an active role in several Bridges Center programs, including the Union Democracy Re-Examined project and the 2005 Forum on Hiring Halls. Most recently, he delivered an address at the 2008-2009 Awards Celebration. Ugles replaces Larry Hansen, who, after six years of service on the Bridges Center Visiting Committee, has retired to Hawaii.

NEW BRIDGES CENTER STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Michael McCann (Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, 1983) is Gordon Hirabayashi Professor for the Advancement of Citizenship at the University of Washington. A former chair of the Political Science Department and Adjunct Professor in the Law School, he is the founding director of both the Interdisciplinary Comparative Law and Society Studies (CLASS) Center and the undergraduate Law, Societies, and Justice program. McCann is the author of Taking Reform Seriously: Perspectives on Public Interest Liberalism (Cornell, 1986), Rights at Work: Pay Equity Reform and the Politics of Legal Mobilization (Chicago, 1994), and (with William Haltom) Distorting the Law: Politics, Media, and the Litigation Crisis (Chicago, 2004). The last two books together have won six major book awards from professional academic associations. He has published over forty essays in Law & Society Review, Law and Social Inquiry, and other social science journals and law reviews as well as in edited books on numerous subjects. Among his present research projects is a study of the cultural backlash against egalitarian rights claiming and public interest litigation for progressive health-related causes in the U.S., and its implications for contemporary politics at local, national, and international levels. He was named a Guggenheim Fellow for the 2007-8 academic year.
this year, and an equal amount for 2010 and 2011 — a total of $150,000 if we can raise a similar amount. The Washington State Labor Council added $10,000 a year for three years, which the Bridges Center will match with a like amount. Legendary ILWU Local 23 veteran Terry Mason wrote a check for $5,000 and other people and unions have been stepping up. We have a ways to go, but if the commitments continue, the Labor Archive will soon become a reality. Wrapping predatory banks in police tape is a great idea, even if the gesture lasts only a few moments. Building institutions like the Labor Archives will last for generations. Let’s do both.

GOVERNOR GREGOIRE DECLARES 2009 A YEAR OF LABOR HERITAGE

AT OUR INITIATIVE, and thanks to the efforts of Washington State labor, on January 30, 2009, Governor Christine Gregoire signed a proclamation recognizing 2009 as a year to acknowledge our state’s labor heritage.

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Talk: “Losing By Degrees: Rising Costs and Public Disinvestment in Higher Education”

Marilyn P. Watkins, Ph. D (Economic Opportunity Institute) and Gabriel Nishimura (Masters Candidate, UW School of Social Work)
Forum (Rm. 3009, Parrington Hall, UW Seattle 4:30PM - 5:30PM)

Washington State is falling behind in the effort to build a world class education system as continued cuts in state funding and the corresponding tuition hikes mean fewer, more expensive slots at public universities and colleges for Washington families. With public funding for state higher education at a 30-year low, Losing by Degrees calls on state leaders to identify new sources of public revenue to increase public investment in higher education in order to build a more competitive economy, and warns of lost economic security and decreased business competitiveness if no action is taken.

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Film: “This is What Democracy Looks Like”

Museum of History and Industry, 2700 24th Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112 7:00PM - 9:00PM

In partnership with the Museum of History and Industry and the Young Professionals International Network (YPIN), we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Seattle 1999 WTO Protests with a special screening of Jill Freidberg’s landmark documentary. A panel featuring director Jill Freidberg, Verlene Jones (MLKing County Labor Council), Matthew Sparke (UW Geography), and others will follow. Tickets available in November.

For more information, visit the Bridges Center website at depts.washington.edu/pcls/ or call us at 206-543-7946.
SUPPORT THE HARRY BRIDGES CENTER FOR LABOR STUDIES

THE HARRY BRIDGES ENDOwed CHAIR AND CENTER FOR LABOR STUDIES were founded through the initiative of members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. We continue to build upon that legacy in order to provide support for UW students, research, public programs, and other labor-related activities.

We need your support to continue to provide these valuable opportunities. All donations are tax-deductible; checks should be made out to the University of Washington Foundation (use the memo line to indicate which fund you wish to designate for your contribution). If you would like to use a credit card, please visit: www.uwfoundation.org

You can choose to contribute to the following funds:

- **Bridges Community Outreach and Events Fund:** Supports special events, teaching, and scholarship
- **Harry Bridges Endowment:** Supports the endowed Chair and Center for Labor Studies
- **Labor Archive Fund:** Supports Washington State Labor Archive programs and staff
- **Martin and Anne Jugum Scholarship:** Provides tuition for outstanding undergraduates
- **Martha Duggan Fellowship:** Provides support to graduate students who study or provide caring labor
- **The Theodore L. and Doris M. Hansen Endowment:** Provides annual income for the Community Outreach and Events Fund
- **David J. Olson Endowed Fund:** Supports students in the Department of Political Science

support us