IN APRIL, THE BRIDGES Center will host a conference on the ongoing crisis of inequality and the role of labor in forging political change. “Working Democracy” will be held at a time when American democracy is not working. Inequality is at levels not seen since the Gilded Age. Gridlocked institutions prove unable to address pressing problems like enduring unemployment, crumbling infrastructure, looming environmental disaster, and failed immigration policies. These current problems reflect longer trends. Wages have been largely stagnant since the 1970s despite rising productivity. Employers have switched from long-term employment with pensions to contingent work arrangements. Many have also adopted authoritarian management techniques, limiting worker speech and privacy, violating labor laws, and using irregular work schedules to keep workers isolated and fearful. Even workers following paths exalted as the road to prosperity are meeting dead ends. Many college graduates face enormous debt and dim job prospects, and workers in the high-skill tech sector face precarious employment.

Societies with persistent inequalities in income and opportunity inevitably experience unrest and demands for change. Democratic governments can respond with corrective policies that restore the social compact. Alternatively, they can curtail democracy by stripping political power from the restless majority to protect a shrinking group at the top.

If those are the options, recent developments are alarming. Government, when it can act at all, has been making inequality worse, allowing devastating cuts in government jobs and services instead of fixing the regressive tax system and shrinking minimum wage. Meanwhile, growing threats to democracy now include an influx of corporate money into elections, brazen voter suppression, secretive trade agreements, attacks on collective bargaining rights, and use of militarized police against peaceful protestors.

Things don’t have to be this way. WWII was followed by decades of shared prosperity and an imperfect but growing commitment to equal opportunity. Of course, unions had considerably more political power then, power made possible by decades of courageous struggle by earlier generations. During the Great Depression labor unrest finally forced Congress to replace obsolete social security with new guarantees of workers’ rights.

We face another historic moment. It is increasingly clear that we cannot have a working democracy without powerful workers. We need a framework of workplace relations more suited to working conditions under new technologies of globalization, and a workers movement powerful enough to force change. Many workers, labor leaders, and activists are developing political and organizing models to empower workers for the struggles ahead. Labor organizations are strengthening alliances with immigrant, human rights, and environmental organizations. Worker centers and the campaigns for fast food and Wal-Mart workers model new strategies for collective power outside conventional collective bargaining frameworks.

I hope that Bridges Center events like the Working Democracy conference can contribute to this broader effort to shape the future. Please save the date (April 25-26, 2014) and join the effort to build knowledge of the challenges of political action in an era of inequality and the possibilities for reform.
DON’T MOURN, ARCHIVE!

2013 IS THE THIRD YEAR of the Labor Archives of Washington (LAW) and my third as archivist. It’s hard to believe how much progress we have made in such a short amount of time. I am happy to once again report on our many recent accomplishments — including LAW’s first major award!

Honors And Awards
Made possible by the labor movement

After less than three years of operation, the Labor Archives won the 2013 John Sessions Memorial Award from the American Library Association’s Reference and User Services Association for our “steady stream of exhibits, outreach efforts to the community and the impressive LibGuides site and digital collections portal site.” An annual award sponsored by the Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO, it recognizes a library or library system that has brought recognition to the labor movement and provided excellent outreach services to unions.

This award is really a testament to the incredible support that we have received from the labor movement. It is amazing to me to realize that LAW is funded almost entirely from donations made by working people and their unions. Recently, I was listening to an oral history interview of a labor archivist who I consider a mentor and a role model. He relayed a quote from his father: “There can be no greater cause than serving working people.” I agree wholeheartedly. Getting the chance to serve in this job is an honor, as is the recognition embodied in this award.

Online Labor History
All-access labor history

Building on the efforts honored by the Sessions Award, we continue to grow our Digital Collections. The latest additions include over 300 items related to Filipino American cannery workers, including the entire United Cannery and Farm Laborers, Local 37 Photograph Collection. A rare window into the lives of workers, this resource is already being extensively used by students, scholars, and filmmakers.

Another digital project is our effort to create and link to Wikipedia.org articles. So far, we have contributed more than a hundred links and pages on labor-related subjects. This way, users can connect to our collections with a click of their mouse from one of the most popular reference sources on the internet.
ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 25-26, 2014 the Bridges Center will convene a conference to explore how growing inequality threatens American democracy and consider new strategies for empowering workers and making government responsive to the interests of the working class.

The conference will bring together nationally known scholars and activists, UW faculty, staff and students, and local labor and community leaders. The goal is to build and share practical knowledge about why equality has grown, the reasons democratic checks are failing, and possible models for using direct action and conventional politics to give workers voice. We hope to see you there!

VISIT THE WORKING DEMOCRACY WEBSITE

Updates on the conference, suggested reading on conference themes, commentary from Bridges Chair George Lovell, and more!

www.workingdemocracy.uw.edu

THANK YOU TO THE ILWU!

$120,000 gift to the Labor Archives of Washington

FROM 2009 TO 2011, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Coast Longshore Division provided $150,000 in matching grant funds to establish the Labor Archives of Washington. At the Longshore Division’s recent 2013 caucus, they unanimously voted to contribute an additional direct gift of $120,000 over the next two years while the Labor Archives continues to operate and seek long-term funding. An enormous thank you to the ILWU, whose dedication to historical preservation and education continues to serve as an example to the labor movement!

Don’t Mourn, Archive! (continued)

The Labor Archives serves as a key source for research, including papers written for the UW’s Labor History and Civil Rights Project (http://depts.washington.edu/labhist/), one of the best public history websites on the internet. Working closely with students has paid off. To date, at least 5 students using the Labor Archives have won research awards. One young filmmaker even won the 2013 National History Day Competition! Check it out at http://tinyurl.com/2013historyday.

In the coming year, I will be working with labor councils and unions to establish records management policies that will make transferring records to the Labor Archives or preserving records in-house easier. Interested? Get in touch!

Thank you for your continued support. I welcome you to contact me for research help, to donate a collection, or to speak with your organization about a potential archives project!

Contact Conor Casey at 206-685-3976 or e-mail cmcasey@uw.edu
SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

BY AWARDING MORE THAN $50,000 annually in scholarships, grants, and prizes, the Bridges Center provides support for students and faculty pursuing the study of labor.

Martin and Anne Jugum Scholarship in Labor Studies
This undergraduate scholarship honors former ILWU Local 19 leader Martin “Jug” Jugum and his wife Anne. It is given annually to students with a strong commitment to labor organizing and labor studies.

Cesar Garcia: A recent graduate of the University of Washington’s Ida B. Wells School for Social Justice alternative high school, Cesar has worked hard to support himself since 2009, when his mother, an undocumented domestic worker, was deported to Honduras. Outside of work and school, he is an avid volunteer and activist. As a student at the UW, he plans to double-major in Medical Anthropology/Global Health and Spanish while earning a minor in Labor Studies, with the goal of working towards immigration reform, higher education for underrepresented students, and community healthcare. Cesar writes, “By studying labor studies, I am able to honor the struggle of my mother, those before her, those that continue struggling, and those in the future. Che Guevara once said ‘the first duty of a revolutionary is to be educated.’ And that is what I am doing.”

Jacqueline Wu: A committed student and activist, Jacqueline’s academic and community work has been shaped by her personal experiences in an immigrant working-class family. As an intern at the Labor Archives of Washington, she has processed the papers of Seattle labor activists Cindy and Silme Domingo, Gene Viernes, and Tyree Scott, and currently works as an intern for the civil rights group OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates. Pursuing a double-major in History and American Ethnic Studies with a minor in Labor Studies, after graduation she plans to attend graduate school to continue studying labor at the intersection of race and empire building, including research on U.S. colonialism in the Philippines and Puerto Rico.

Gundlach Scholarship in Labor Studies
The Gundlach Scholarship honors ILWU secretary and labor activist Jean Gundlach, her brother and former UW Professor Ralph Gundlach – a victim of communist witchhunts in the 1950s – and their siblings Wilford and Betty.

Sigolene Ortega: As a long-time volunteer with the Western Service Worker’s Association in Santa Cruz, CA, a grassroots organization dedicated to ending poverty for low-income workers, Sigolene acted as a patient advocate and translator for Latino families in need of health care. By pursuing a masters degree in Community-Oriented Public Health Practice at the University of Washington, she seeks to continue her advocacy for low-income working families by combating disparities in health care policy.

Martha H. Duggan Fellowship in Caring Labor
This award is given in memory of Martha H. Duggan, whose caring labor made possible the life work of her husband and key Bridges Center founding supporter Robert Duggan. It is given to graduate students studying or providing caring labor.

Annie Menzel, Political Science: An activist and practitioner as well as a scholar, Annie brings years of experience in the field of midwifery to her study of caring labor. Moved by her observation of racial inequities in healthcare while training in a Texas maternity clinic, Annie centers anti-racism in both her work as a midwife and her graduate studies. As a part of the group Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression in Midwifery, Annie educates other midwives about racial justice. Her dissertation, “Birth Work: Political Thinking and Practice for Black Infant Survival,” draws together the history and practices of African American midwives, the writings of Audre Lorde, and research in public health to connect the practice of caring labor to broader struggles for racial justice.

LERA and Samuel B. Bassett Scholarships in Labor Relations
The Northwest chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association sponsors an annual scholarship for students seeking to pursue a career in labor. It is coupled with the Samuel B. Bassett Scholarship, which memorializes a pioneer of labor law in Seattle.

Alyson Dimmitt Gnam, School of Law: Entering her third year of law school, Alyson has compiled a strong record of research and practice advocating for the legal rights of immigrants, particularly women agricultural workers in rural communities. Through work with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Columbia Legal Services in Yakima, WA, and the Northwest Justice Project, she has advocated for farmworker rights and reviewed sexual harassment cases. As a legal scholar, she has examined the limits of current laws and policy in preventing violence and sexual harassment against women migrant workers. And as co-president of Students for Labor and Employment Justice, Alyson has raised these issues at the UW School of Law through a regular series of educational events.

Silme Domingo & Gene Viernes Scholarship in Labor Studies
This scholarship honors Domingo and Viernes, two Seattle leaders who fought for union democracy alongside Filipino canny workers and organized in solidarity with resistance in the Philippines to the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship. The prize goes to students entering the University of Washington this year.

Isaura Jiménez Guerra: A graduate of the University of Washington with a double-major in American Ethnic Studies and Comparative History of Ideas, Isaura is returning to the UW to earn a Masters Degree in Multicultural Education. Spurred by her work with working-class...
youth of color as an organizer for Seattle Young People’s Project, as well as her own experiences growing up Xicana in South Seattle, isaura seeks to develop school curriculums that draw upon local histories of working people’s struggle in order to “empower diverse students and create spaces for transformative social action.”

Best Paper Prize
Every year, the Bridges Center gives an award to the finest labor studies essays written by UW students.

UNDERGRADUATE
Leo Baunach, Latin American Studies
Organizing Precarious Workers in the CIO Era: The International Fishermen and Allied Workers of America

Based on rare records held in the Labor Archives of Washington, Leo Baunach’s paper examines a Seattle-based union that once represented more than 25,000 fishermen and cannery workers. The paper also won the UW Libraries’s 2013 Library Research Award.

Ashley Lindsey, History & Political Science
Working Together: Waterfront Politics, Peace and Solidarity During the 1948 West Coast Maritime Strike

Ashley Lindsey’s paper tells the story of the ILWU’s seminal 1948 strike. The paper also won the 2013 Library Research Award given by the UW Libraries and the Best Paper Award given by the UW Department of History.

Graduate Research Grants
This award is given to graduate students from diverse disciplines studying work and labor.

Anne Greanleaf, Political Science
“We Are Not Machines: Labor Disputes and Insurgency Among Chinese Migrant Workers”

Chinese workers’ recent resistance to poor working conditions, including dramatic strike waves, has gained international media attention. Yet worker resistance within the country varies considerably from region to region. Through fieldwork and extensive interviews with workers and local officials, Anne’s study seeks to explain this regional variation.

Michael Reagan, History
“Capital City: New York’s Fiscal Crisis”

Michael will travel to New York City archives to conduct research for his dissertation on the origins of New York City’s near-bankruptcy in 1975 and the government restructuring that followed. In particular, his research will describe how private interests worked with government to diminish the political power of organized labor and rollback social spending programs.

Jiwoon Yu-Lee, Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies
“New Laboring Subjects under the New Labor Regime: An Exploratory Study of Female Janitorial Workers in South Korea”

Through archival research and participatory ethnographies with a janitorial workers’ union, Jiwoon will explore changing gendered divisions within the working class in South Korea, particularly in the wake of the 1997-2001 Asian debt crisis and IMF-imposed restructuring of the country’s labor laws.

NEW BRIDGES CENTER FACULTY ASSOCIATE

THE BRIDGES CENTER has more than sixty Faculty Associates who regularly teach and produce scholarship on labor. They are spread across twenty departments on each of the three UW campuses in Bothell, Seattle and Tacoma.

This year, we welcome new UW Bothell Assistant Professor Dan Berger, a scholar of American social movements. He is the author of many articles and the books Outlaws of America: The Weather Underground and the Politics of Solidarity (2006) and Captive Nation: Black Prison Organizing in the Civil Rights Era (Forthcoming). He is the editor of The Hidden 1970s: Histories of Radicalism (2010) and Letters from Young Activists (2005).

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR RESEARCH

The Bridges Center receives funding from the Washington State Legislature to support research by UW faculty on labor-related issues in order to inform policy-making.

Aaron Katz, School of Public Health
Achieving Workers’ Rights to Health Care through the Affordable Care Act: An Investigation of Access for Small Business Employees in Washington State

The federal Affordable Care Act, set to go into effect in 2013 and 2014, provides a number of options for small businesses to provide health care to their employees. Katz’s study will investigate to what extent Washington State small businesses are aware of these programs, and what forms of outreach, information and assistance they need in order to provide workers health care.

Diana Pearce, School of Social Work

The effects of the Great Recession that began in 2008 continue to be felt. By identifying the groups in Washington State most adversely affected by the economic downturn, Pearce’s study will assist policymakers and others in responding to the crisis. Moreover, the study will address whether decreasing incomes result from a growth in low-wage jobs, an increase in part-time jobs, or both. Lastly, it will calculate the impact of Washington State’s minimum wage during the recession, the highest in the country.
THE HARRY BRIDGES CHAIR: CREATION, EVOLUTION, AND IMPACT

A Look Back at 20 Years of Labor Studies at the University of Washington

The following is a written reconstruction of comments made by Robert Duggan, Charles Bergquist, and Terri Mast at the Opening Plenary of “Labor, Labor Studies, and the Future,” a symposium marking the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Harry Bridges Chair, which was held at the University of Washington, November 17, 2012. Margaret Levi (Bridges Chair, 1994-1998) introduced the panelists.

A complete audio recording of the session, as well as recordings of the other panels of the symposium, is available on the Bridges Center website at http://depts.washington.edu/pcls/research-other.html#anniversary

Remarks by Robert Duggan, Co-Chair of the Harry Bridges Memorial Committee

In 1989 I was the President of the University of Washington Alumni Association and as such represented that organization on a committee called “Campaign for Washington” tasked with raising an enormous amount of money for the university. I sat at the table with people who could personally write huge checks or run corporations who could. I remember a fellow two years ahead of me in school who was president of Ford Motors and donated the Donald Peterson Room to the tune of 4 million for the Suzzallo library. Others were talking about Chairs in Law, Medicine, and Business. The Stroum Chair in Jewish Studies was cited as an example of what was needed.

As I sat there I thought that every class of society was represented and a Chair proposed except for the largest— the working class. I thought why not a Chair to represent the working class and what better than one named in honor of Harry Bridges. At that time I had been a longshoreman’s son for nearly 50 years and a member of ILWU for 31 years and the lawyer for the ILWU for 28 years. Like most ILWU members I knew Harry but we were not personal friends. My interactions with him were as lawyer for Locals 19 and 23 and other Puget Sound locals.

When I gave legal advice that he did not like I heard about it. I greatly admired him and what he stood for and felt he was deserving of a permanent place at a major university.

That is where the idea of the Chair was born. Harry was still a hot political issue in 1989 at age 88 and might not be welcomed by some of the members of the right with long memories. I approached the president of the university, William “Bill” Gerberding, with my idea. He gave me encouragement and advice: get several large donors to back the proposed solicitation of union members, locate the Chair in Arts and Sciences (rather than the Law school), and make its focus labor studies as opposed to “labor relations.” All good points and largely followed except the first. I knew no large potential donors only ILWU members and perhaps some employers.

In early 1990 Harry was hanging onto life by a thread. I knew in my heart if I asked for his approval he would say no and tell me to raise money for organizing. I went to the rank and file representatives in Seattle first, Jimmy Dean, Pat Vukich, Tony Hutter. I wanted their support but would settle for them not objecting to my idea. They gave me encouragement. Next I went to the two people who could make things happen in Seattle and Tacoma, Martin Jugum and Phil Lelli. Both were supportive.

Then Harry died. At the memorial services in Tacoma and Seattle I proposed the idea of a permanent memorial to Harry in the form of a “Chair.” Phil and Jug swung into action. A committee was formed of leaders in each local called the “Harry Bridges Memorial Committee” to raise the million dollars needed to endow a Chair. We had no meetings. I appointed myself co-chairman with Jug. When we needed help from a local or vice-versa, Jug, Phil or I would contact the local committee member for help or support.

This way the drive kept moving forward.

Jug had a simple fundraising strategy: $1000 from 1000 donors. Good math, but I did not think we could find a thousand workers with 1000 dollars to spare. Jug found 12 right off the bat and brought me the $12,000 in cash in a large envelope. My secretary Angie Fontana became the de-facto treasurer of the committee and I was the secretary.

We set up a trust account for later delivery to the university. At first the university did not want the cash until a chair was established, that is until we had the million dollars in hand. This was later changed and we accounted for the donations, sent thank you notes to each donor, and forwarded the money to the university.

I estimated that if each rank and file member in the State of Washington gave $300, we could raise between $500,000 and $700,000. Our committee set out to get the approval for this plan from each local. Approval was obtained relatively quickly. We were on a two-year fund raising campaign ending on Harry’s birthday in 1992 and the locals responded.

I approached the only employer member of Pacific Maritime Association I knew well enough to discuss an employer contribution — perhaps matching money. I knew Ricky Smith, co-CEO of Stevedoring Services of America, from law school and as a member of the Seattle Joint Port Labor Relations Committee. I knew that he had admiration and respect for Harry, Martin Jugum, and Frank Jenkins, the latter two he considered his teachers in labor relations. I did not ask Ricky for a personal contribution. I asked him to head up a contribution/matching fund drive with his fellow employers. He agreed. He requested anonymity which I today breach because his contribution must be recorded. We never met in person and had only 3 or 4 phone calls.

At each critical point in the fund raising campaign I would call him and say something to this effect: “We have raised $x thousand dollars to date.”
In the next day’s mail I would get a check for that amount written on his personal account at SSA. I told Rick it was my intent to raise as much as possible from my fellow workers. When we approached our closing date for the Chair and needed money to put us over a million, I called Rick and the necessary money arrived the next day. He asked for no thanks and no recognition. We had the same arrangement when we established the Martin and Ann Jugum Scholarship.

Working on the Chair was the most satisfying project I have ever been associated with. Everything seemed to happen as if ordained from above. My law partners pitched in to help with contributions but also the nearly full-time services of my secretary and me for nearly two years.

It was an all-hands operation with people pitching in to help and supporting the project all the way. If there were ever said some discouraging words I did not hear them.

Chuck Bergquist, Jim Gregory, and the late David Olson have each said the Chair has been the high point of their academic careers. Margaret, Daniel, and Michael have expressed similar sentiments. High praise from people I highly regard.

We have now started the Labor Archives of Washington which I think is our most important imitative for the future. It is a natural blend of academic interest with a need to preserve union history. I believe the Labor Archives project will bring other labor organization into the fold alongside the ILWU and assure the growth of the Chair and ability to serve.

As my generation passes from the scene we need new people to take up the task of supporting the Chair. It is up to you. Thank you.

Remarks by Charles Bergquist (UW History Department, Harry Bridges Chair, 1994-96)

It’s a real pleasure to be here with you, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Bridges Chair here at the University of Washington. It’s sad, however, that David Olson is not here to celebrate with us and help recount how the Chair developed at the university. David played a foundational role in those developments and from the beginning I was involved as well and I’ll do my best to recount some high points of that history this afternoon.

The Bridges Chair, whose remarkable origins Bob Duggan has just recounted, is one of a kind. There are thousands of endowed professorships or chairs at U.S. universities. Most are named for rich people and were created by a wealthy individual or a wealthy family. The Bridges Chair is different. Not only does it honor a person who dedicated his life to redistributing wealth by building a strong, democratic labor union. But it was funded by hundreds of relatively small donations from working people.

But the uniqueness of the Bridges Chair does not stop there. As we sought to develop it here at the university, the Chair took on additional characteristics that set it apart from all the other endowed chairs.

The standard way endowed professorships work is like this. Once the endowment is complete, the department in which the chair is housed goes out to find a famous scholar to fill the chair. Typically this person is offered a big jump in salary and research funds for his or her work. Once such a person is hired, he or she can expect to hold the chair until retirement.

This is not at all how the Bridges Chair has functioned. How that came about is what I will try to explain today. The funny thing about the story I’m about to tell is that we started out trying to make the Bridges Chair fit the traditional pattern, but we ended up creating something that was virtually its opposite. Rather than promoting the career and research of a single individual, the Bridges Chair has been held by seven different people so far. The funds generated by the endowment have not been used to raise the salaries of these holders of the chair, but instead have been used for research and teaching throughout the university.

Decisions about how funds are used are not even decided solely by the holder of the chair. Rather, they are decided collectively by a committee of faculty members.

Now as I said, this democratic and collective structure of the chair was not arrived at entirely by design. Much of it was a result of decisions that were essentially out of our hands and came about as we tried to make the best of what we originally thought was a setback for our situation.

(continued on page 8)
Once funding for the chair was almost complete, the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Joe Norman, sent out a memo to all departments inviting them to make a case for locating the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies in their departments. (The College of Arts and Sciences is the heart of the university and includes all the basic disciplines, from Anthropology through Zoology, with everything in between.) I don’t know how many proposals the dean got back, but David and I, representing Political Science and History, were in good positions to compete. David, a specialist on ports, had a clear understanding of the importance of labor on the waterfront, and close ties to the ILWU.

I was a labor historian specializing on Latin America and after joining the UW faculty in 1989 I had been using part of my salary to bring distinguished labor scholars to campus each summer to teach labor history courses. However many proposals the dean received, he liked David’s and mine, and, rather than choosing one or the other, he chose them both and located the Bridges Chair in History and Political Science.

At that point both David and I were thinking about an endowed chair in the traditional way and we set about trying to identify a distinguished outside scholar who would be acceptable to the two departments and to fill the chair and build a program in labor studies. We even hoped that we might convince our two departments to each pony up an additional half position each so that we could offer the future holder of the chair, in addition to a boost in salary, program money for his or her research, for conferences, graduate student support, etc.

One candidate we agreed upon was David Brody. Brody was widely considered the preeminent scholar of 20th century U.S. labor history, and he had recently taught in my summer course here at the UW. When I sounded Brody out about the possibility of being the Bridges Chair he was deeply honored but said he was happy at UC-Davis and too advanced in years to build a dynamic program at the UW. He suggested instead we look at a very promising younger scholar, a certain James Gregory, who was teaching labor history at UC-Berkeley.

We took note of the possibility, but at that point, the dean, in his infinite wisdom, nixed the idea of naming an outside person to the chair and instead named David and me as the first Bridges Chairs, each to serve a two-year term. I was to go first, but about the same time I learned that I had been awarded a year-long Fulbright Professorship to teach labor history at the National University in Bogotá, Colombia and David took on the task of being the first Bridges Chair. It was probably best that it worked out this way. David, as a long-standing UW faculty member, was better suited by experience and training to set up the institutions governing the chair. Although I was an alumnus of the UW, I had spent most of my career teaching on the East Coast and I was still learning the ins and outs of a new university.

From the beginning David and I were determined that the Bridges endowment not be used to line the pockets of existing UW faculty. If the dean refused to allow us to bring in a new full-time faculty member to teach labor studies, we were resolved to use the money in its entirety for teaching new courses, fostering faculty research, and funding graduate students and undergraduates studying labor. Being named the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies was honor and compensation enough, we believed, and we took on administration of our fledgling program as a labor of love.

Since the Bridges endowment would be used not for faculty salaries but for teaching and research it quickly became apparent that in addition to having a Bridges Chair we also needed a Bridges Center for Labor Studies. So we petitioned the administration for approval to go ahead with that plan. Once again, for whatever reasons, the administration (this time it was the Provost) opposed our plan. And once again, as Bob Duggan had done before us, we went directly to the president of the university, William Gerberding, seeking his support.

We got that support and eventually had our Bridges Center and one of our biggest hurdles in building a successful program was overcome.

Over the years our program has grown and grown and become quite successful. I think one of the most important reasons for our success was they way the Bridges Endowment allowed us to leverage our funds by joining forces with other departments and programs. Those of you who attended Tom Geoghegan’s talk last evening may have noticed the long list of co-sponsors of the event, each of whom contributed funds to making it a success.

By far, the single most impressive case of leveraging our funds occurred early on. Again, this was a case of happenstance that began under circumstances beyond our control. At that time the History Department was trying to recruit a specialist to fill a slot in U.S. history and had identified a woman named Susan Glenn as the leading candidate. Glenn was teaching at the U of Texas and her husband, also a historian, had a position at Berkeley—a classic academic commuter marriage. If the UW could offer both of them a job, she said, they would gladly accept. Who was the husband? None other than the same Jim Gregory whom David Brody had originally recommended for the Bridges Chair. But there was one big problem. History had funds for only one appointment, although, given a pending retirement, which would take effect the following year, it would then be able to cover both positions. Bridges funding stepped in to provide “bridge” money for part of the first year of Gregory’s salary enabling History to make the two appointments.
Gregory began teaching U.S. labor history on a regular basis and eventually served two terms as Bridges Chair. In this way, in one fell swoop, we effectively doubled the size of our endowment (considering that at the time the endowment was generating about the amount of Gregory’s salary and benefits.) And this reckoning does not include the contributions of Susan Glenn, a historian of labor herself, who, like Jim, continues to teach in the History Department today.

In addition to leveraging, there is one other aspect of the functioning of the chair that I think bears emphasizing. Those of you who know how universities work realize that departments are the building blocks of the university and they often compete for resources and are jealous of one another. Thus it should come as no surprise that in the beginning, David and I, and our colleagues in Political Science and History, were a bit wary of one another and vigilant over the course of the development of the Bridges Chair and the Center for Labor Studies. It was as if I was always looking over David’s shoulder and he was always looking over mine.

Over time, our common purpose and our mutual commitment to making the Chair and Center a success overcame these suspicions and together we created a common labor studies culture that transcended our departmental loyalties. But I think that initial attitude helps explain the fact that the standing committee we created to advise the chair, composed equally of representatives from the two departments, evolved into a kind of shared governance for the chair. It also helps explain the transparency with which the Chair and Center have always functioned.

Since those early years, the activities of the Chair and Center have grown and diversified. Holders of the Chair have included labor studies faculty outside the departments of History and Political Science, including faculty from our branch campuses in Tacoma and Bothell. Each successive holder of the chair has had a slightly different take on what is important in labor studies, each has had a different set of social and political connections, and thus each has brought new life to our activities. Those attending the banquet tonight will find in the booklet distributed there an extensive recounting of those activities, and I won’t try to describe them here.

All these activities eventually led to the creation of the position of Program Coordinator to administer them. And recently, thanks to generous support beyond the original endowment, we have launched a major new endeavor, a labor archive staffed by a full-time labor archivist.

All this does not mean that our job is done or that we should rest on our laurels. Quite the contrary. As this audience knows full well, labor today is in serious trouble and labor studies have an important role to play in helping to find solutions to the problems we all face today. Fortunately, here at the UW, thanks in no small measure to the Bridges Chair and Center for Labor Studies, we are in a position to contribute to this important goal.

Each of us, I suppose, has our own vision of what the Bridges Chair and Center should focus on in the future. My own view is that, as Tom Geoghegan showed in his talk last night, we need to continue to emphasize the international and comparative dimensions of the problems we face. Last month I had the opportunity to co-teach a short course for unionists at the Washington State Labor Education Center at South Seattle Community College entitled “Labor History: A Global Perspective.” I think the Bridges Center needs to offer more courses like that, courses that are open to unionists, high school teachers, members of the community, and graduate and undergraduate students alike.

Let me close on a personal note. Being part of the Bridges program has been the high point of my academic career and I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all the donors to the program, and all the people I’ve worked with in the program, living and dead, for the grand opportunity I’ve enjoyed.

Now let me turn the floor over to Terri Mast.

Remarks by Terri Mast, National Secretary Treasurer of the Inland-boatmen’s Union

You have just heard about the development of the chair, how the money was raised, and the reasoning behind wanting a chair to be named after Harry Bridges.

Why it was chosen to be here at the UW? We thought then it was a way to keep Harry’s history alive through a living memory of continuing education of the young. We believed it would honor his legacy to the labor movement in particular and to society in general.

At the kick-off reception in July 1992 Professor David Olson pledged that “the new facility would not be the usual Industrial Relations Chair seen at some other universities but a real Center for Labor Studies” with the potential to become the best in the nation.

Now I must say then that we were a little skeptical about academia. Could they, would they, teach workers’ stories, could they present our history in a way that would move students to action, would they teach how industry and government collaborated against our union and its leaders, or would all this just be intellectualized?

Well, the answer is yes to the above questions. The first Chair, David Olson of the Political Science Department, was a perfect fit. He also said in the beginning that it was important that working people had a seat at the table and he began to build a relationship with the ILWU to make sure that our vision was implemented in the curriculum, that ILWU officers and members were present in classes to share our stories, and also be involved in putting on educational forums for students and the labor movement. He set the tone and example to all the other chairs that followed and they have continued to build on that foundation.

We have watched our dream of the Chair develop into a one-of-a-kind program not only in Washington State but in the country and maybe the world. One where the labor community has input on its programs and we benefit from the students it produces. Every chair has brought unique abilities to the program and the program as a whole has developed beyond our expectations.

We are quite proud that after the initial funding of the Chair other union members and families have donated money to the program to fund scholarships for students. These

(continued on page 10)
scholarship funds continue to grow and you will see the recipients of those scholarships tonight and you will hear from some of those students on panels later today.

Through the Labor Center’s teachings on the history of the labor movement, the struggles of workers, and the gains that have been won by those struggles, we have developed students who are willing to stand up for workers’ struggles. Students from the Labor Center developed their own action organizations on campus from the initial SLAC (Student Labor Action Coalition), which then became SLAP (Student Labor Action Program) and worked closely with Jobs with Justice and with United Students Against Sweatshops to form the Anti-Sweatshop Coalition. All of these organizations took up the struggle for social justice, standing with labor unions on and off campus during workers’ fights. These students also took on their own campaigns here on campus and won a campaign to stop the UW from buying garments from sweatshops and having labor standards for the clothing the UW sells on campus. More recently they began a campaign against Sodexo. Students have found encouragement and support for their ideas and actions from the professors of the Labor Center.

For the last twenty years the Bridges Center has involved labor and broader community input to host a range of forums on issues like unemployment, social security, healthcare, immigration and labor democracy— issues that are topical and of interest to a wide range of people. At these events we have had lively debate and discussion much like the lecture last evening with Tom Geoghegan. The Center has also put on book signings and discussions of books on labor, Dr. Martin Luther King, and the Boeing company.

The Bridges Center has been an asset to labor, providing interns to work with locals on projects, and giving students opportunities to conduct research on issues vital to the labor movement. Some of the remarkable work the students have done on such issues and their history has benefited us all. It’s been incredible that these students have learned from our perspective because the professors have solicited our input in the curriculum.

But to me it’s been especially exciting to see students from the Center come to work for the labor movement or social justice organizations, or at least leave school as people committed to workers’ rights because of what they were exposed to here at the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies. So I feel it has become a very valuable resource for the labor movement and one we are proud to be a part of.

The most recent development, under the Chair of Jim Gregory, was the expansion of the UW labor archives with funds from the ILWU longshore division matched by funds from the UW labor archives with funds from the Washington State Labor Council and contributions from other local unions. We raised enough money to hire a labor archivist, Conor Casey.

Conor has done an incredible amount of work in very short amount of time and again we are providing something unique and valuable to the university and to labor— our history. We will have some of the best collections in the country and we have a vision to go beyond that, but one step at a time. This is so important because once our histories are here in the archive they are organized and preserved and made accessible. They can then be researched and written about and our stories can be shared so our legacies won’t be lost. The Northwest has a lot of rich progressive trade union history and it won’t be told sitting in union halls or boxes somewhere— here it is available. Worker’s stories aren’t told often enough so this is a very exciting development.

Since we moved the Labor Education and Research Center from Evergreen State College up to Seattle, the Bridges Center and the South Seattle Community College labor campus are working together providing training to unions and our members, educational programs like leadership development and shop steward training skills for negotiations. This is a great development and one that will benefit both centers. We are lucky to have them both here and working together.

Between our organizing skills and working experience and the professor’s intelligence and vision I think we have accomplished a lot these past 20 years. The Bridges Center has turned out to be a great resource for labor and a wonderful teaching model for students and I look forward to continuing to build on that foundation into the future.

VISIT US ON-LINE!

Check out the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies website, updated regularly with the latest event listings, videos of past events, full research reports and prize-winning papers, and much more. Sign-up for our e-mail newsletter, Labor Talks, sent twice monthly.

We are also on Facebook and Twitter (@UWBridgesCenter)!

depts.washington.edu/hbcls/
DISTINGUISHED SUPPORTER AWARD – ILWU, LOCAL 23

THE STORY OF THE FOUNDING of the Bridges Center should be a familiar one to long-time readers of Building Bridges. In 1992, over a thousand union members and pensioners raised over a million dollars to establish the Center. But support from the labor community didn’t end when the Center was established. Since day one, community supporters have worked to establish new scholarships, organize events, and expand our programs. Each year, we honor these individuals with the Robert Duggan Distinguished Supporter Award.

This year, for the first time ever, we honor not an individual, but an organization: ILWU Local 23, based in Tacoma, WA. Support for the Bridges Center from ILWU Local 23 was there in 1992 at the Center’s founding, when Tacoma longshore leader Phil Lelli joined the Harry Bridges Memorial Committee and played an instrumental role in fundraising. Local 23’s efforts have since continued to assist the Bridges Center as it pursues its mission of education and research devoted to working people.

Local 23 members and officials have served as active participants on the Bridges Center’s Visiting Committee. Phil Lelli served on the Committee from 1992 until his passing in 2004, as did Local 23 pensioner Harry “The Horse” Hilliard, who passed in 2008. More recently, Local 23 vice president Holly Hulscher, former president Conrad Spell, and current president Scott Mason have offered advice and counsel as Committee members. Hulscher, Spell and Mason have also counseled UW students, speaking regularly about the labor movement to Margaret Levi’s annual “Introduction to Labor Studies” class.

Most significant has been Local 23’s support for the Labor Archives of Washington. Besides the union’s own generous donations to the Archives, Local 23 officials have been instrumental in obtaining gifts from the larger ILWU, including $50,000 annual matching grants from 2008-2011 and the recent contribution of $120,000 for 2013-2014.

Local 23’s support for the Archives reflects its own long tradition of honoring its own significant heritage, which dates back over 125 years to the earliest days of the Tacoma waterfront. The Bridges Center is proud to honor that heritage with this year’s Distinguished Supporter award.

ILWU LOCAL 23 MEMBERS AND PENSIONERS MARK THE UNION’S 125TH ANNIVERSARY. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DISPATCHER.
HARRY BRIDGES CENTER FOR LABOR STUDIES

Annual Awards Celebration & Labor Archives Fundraiser

Saturday, November 24, 2013  5:00 – 8:00pm  South Ballroom, Husky Union Building  University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Support the Labor Archives! To raise funds for the Archives, we are offering the chance to sponsor the banquet at two levels:
• $500 – Table Sponsor: Reserves a table seating 8.
• $1000 or more – Event Sponsor: Reserves a table seating 8; a half-page ad in the dinner program; and special recognition at the event.

All donations are tax-deductible. Donors giving $500 or more join the Labor Archives Founder’s Circle.

NAME/ORGANIZATION: ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS: _________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
E-MAIL: ___________________________________________ PHONE: _____________________________________________________

☐ I/we would like to reserve ____________ tickets. (Please enclose a list of your guest names.)
☐ I/we would like to sponsor a table or the event with a donation of $___________.

Ad submission deadline is November 8th. Please send text, logo, and/or 5.5” x 8.5” artwork with this form, or by e-mail to hbcls@uw.edu as a PDF or JPG file.

By check: Return this form with check payable to “UW Foundation” with “Labor Archives” in the memo line, to Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, University of Washington, Box 353530, Seattle, WA 98195-3530.

By credit card: Visit http://depts.washington.edu/pcls/ to give securely on-line, or donate over the phone by calling the Bridges Center at 206-543-7946

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE HARRY BRIDGES CENTER AT 206-543-7946, OR E-MAIL HBCLS@UW.EDU