Are We Up to the Challenge? – $700,000 Kresge Challenge Grant Awarded

After months of anticipation, the Kresge Foundation has notified us that our proposal to fund the McHenry Expansion project has won their support and that we have 18 months to raise the balance of our $8 million campaign in order to trigger their gift of $700,000. To date the library has raised $4.8 million.

In its grant approval letter, the Kresge Foundation commended UCSC for “providing access to students of color and those from low-income and working class families, ... and leadership in environmentally sustainable practices throughout the campus.”

The Kresge Foundation challenges us as a community to come together in support of this project and put our combined resources behind the expansion and renovation of UCSC’s landmark McHenry Library.

University Librarian Ginny Steel emphasizes that this will be “an amazing opportunity to raise the funds we need to totally transform McHenry Library and make it a 21st century destination for a new generation of library users.”

Private support must provide for everything that is not included in state funding, such as the planned Global Village Cyber Café, the reading lawn and gardens, new furniture, new IT and media equipment, public art, and everything that will make the facility even more handsome and aesthetically pleasing.

Together we can meet this challenge. Please call the Library Development Office at (831) 459-5870 to learn about our naming opportunities. Go to http://giving.ucsc.edu/make_a_gift_now.php to make a gift now. Please add “Kresge Challenge” in the window indicating your specific interest.

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Grateful and Alive – The Biggest Coup for UCSC Special Collections
By Astrid von Soosten, Library Development

On April 24 Bob Weir and Mickey Hart, two of the remaining members of the legendary Grateful Dead, presented Chancellor George Blumenthal with the biggest gift to UCSC Special Collections to date: the Grateful Dead’s archive—lovingly and painstakingly preserved by Eileen Law, the band’s one-woman office of many years, residing at “5th and Chancellor George Blumenthal with the biggest gift to UCSC Special Collections to date: the Grateful Dead’s archive—lovingly and painstakingly preserved by Eileen Law, the band’s one-woman office of many years, residing at “5th and

The archive fills a 2,000 sq ft warehouse floor to ceiling, and laid out flat it occupies approximately the space of a football field. It contains many thousands of items, including stage backdrops, fan mail, business correspondence, and many other documents that will be of inestimable research value in documenting the band’s very unconventional marketing and copyrighting practices. (The archive does not include any of the Dead’s music, which is still in the band members’ possession and mostly stored in L.A., where Rhino Entertainment can make use of it as it brings out new releases.) Of particular artistic value, for example, are a tinted glass backdrop and thousands of hand-decorated envelopes sent by fans begging the band for their ‘miracle’— code for free tickets to a Dead concert.

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University Librarian Ginny Steel and Head of Special Collections Christine Bunting followed a lead by UCSC Music Professor Fred Lieberman, and after about a year and a half of negotiations the deal went down. Since the announcement, offers of help in every way, shape, and form have been pouring in from all four corners of the country. The loving enthusiasm that has accompanied this gift at each step of the way is unprecedented in UCSC Library history.

Bill Watkins, CEO of Seagate, was among the first to come forward and offer his connections, clout, and financial acumen to get this project off the ground. He is spearheading an effort to raise $2 million to fund the processing of the archive and endow a permanent archivist’s position. If you wish to make a contribution go to: http://library.ucsc.edu speccoll/GD_archive.html. Every gift will bring us closer to making the archive accessible to you.

Bob Weir, Mickey Hart and Chancellor George Blumenthal (l-r)
The Library’s Regional History Project was established in 1963 to chronicle the development of the campus and trace the rich history of the surrounding region. The project has since collected more than two hundred oral histories from people with firsthand knowledge of community or campus history. These interviews are recorded, transcribed, edited, indexed, and published and archived in both printed and digital formats with accompanying photographs and introductions. All of our oral histories are available in full-text PDF format at our website: http://library.ucsc.edu/reg-hist/index.html.

Director Irene Reti is pleased to announce four new oral history publications. The UCSC Arboretum: A Grand Experiment: An Oral History is a 313-page volume that includes interviews with Brett Hall, Phyllis Norris, and Daniel Harder, three key participants in shaping the Arboretum’s history. The volume also includes a historical introduction, timeline, photographs, and other archival material.

Also recently published is "I Respond": Alissa Goldring’s Photographs of Mexico in the 1950s. Goldring is an accomplished painter and photographer (now in her eighties) who lives in the Santa Cruz area. This oral history, conducted by Lizzy Gray of the Regional History Project, focuses on the photographs Goldring took in Mexico between 1955 and 1971. It is intended as a guide and supplement to Goldring’s Mexican photos, slides, and negatives preserved in UCSC Library's Special Collections. A guide to that collection can be found online at http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/ktx90nd1bc/

Regional History has also published two oral histories from visionary professors who influenced the academic development of the campus. Edges and Ecotones: The Worlds of Donna Haraway at UCSC spotlights one of UCSC’s most eminent multi-disciplinary thinkers. A professor of History of Consciousness and Women’s Studies at UCSC since 1980, Haraway helped shape both departments and is one of the country’s leading scholars in feminist theory, animal studies, philosophy, and technoscience. Her archive is housed at Special Collections, and the oral history illuminates many of those materials. This is also the Project’s first oral history to be available in full audio (MP3), and may be accessed through UCSC Library’s web site, or the Cruzcat catalog.

Jim Pepper: The Evolution of Environmental Studies at UC Santa Cruz is one of a series of interviews being conducted with prominent UCSC professors who retired in the early 1990s. Between his arrival in 1972 and his retirement in 1994, Pepper helped to create a flagship program in Environmental Studies at the campus. Pepper brought to UCSC’s new program his practical experience and background as a professional landscape architect and planner, as well as his probing interest in the philosophical and ethical questions at the heart of environmental issues. Outside of academia, Pepper has had a distinguished 45-year career in environmental planning, site planning, and urban design. His projects include the formulation of an earthquake recovery plan for downtown Santa Cruz after the Loma Prieta Earthquake of 1989.

Currently, in recognition of the key role that UCSC and the Central Coast region have played in the development of sustainable agriculture, the Regional History Project is conducting a three-year multi-interview oral history with over fifty individuals and organizations who have built the movement in this region and beyond. Interviewing began in spring 2008, and the “Regional History of Sustainable Agriculture” project will be finished in late 2009 or early 2010. It promises to provide our community with a splendid 21st-century library, well worth these temporary inconveniences.

If you have not already visited us in our new location, I invite you to come by and check it out. Our new entrance can be found at the southwest corner of the Addition (the Performing Arts side). The north side of the old building has been fenced off and foot traffic from Bay Tree Plaza, Science Hill, and the Hahn parking lot is being routed around the construction site (via stairs and a boardwalk). The road and path from Performing Arts are open, and metered parking along with handicapped/medical parking are again available closer to the library. For a map and more detailed access information see http://library.ucsc.edu/info/directions.html

For news and updates about the McHenry project see http://library.ucsc.edu/mlar/