Archives Department Receives Upton Sinclair Collection

The Archives and Special Collections Department in the University Library at CSU Dominguez Hills has received a generous donation of a collection relating to author Upton Sinclair (1878-1968). One of the most prolific authors of the 20th century, Sinclair saw “The Jungle,” his muckraking novel exposing the meat packing industry, lead directly to food and drug reforms following its sensational reception in 1906.

John Ahouse, a Sinclair bibliographer, scholar, collector and enthusiast has donated at least 320 books consisting of multiple editions of nearly every Sinclair title, about 100 pamphlets, over 80 flyers, original magazine articles, tapes, manuscripts by Sinclair as well as by various biographers, newspaper clippings and entire issues of periodicals with Sinclair’s work and 14 boxes of research material. Included in the research materials are newspapers from Sinclair’s EPIC (or End Poverty in California) campaign for governor in 1934.

“This is wonderful and generous gift for CSU Dominguez Hills,” said CSUDH Library Dean Sandra Parham. “The potential for scholarship both for faculty and students is enormous.”

Ahouse, a former archivist at CSU Long Beach and librarian at USC, brought the collection to CSUDH because of its state of the art archival facilities as well as the interest expressed by faculty and staff.

Ahouse’s book, “Upton Sinclair, A Descriptive, Annotated Bibliography” (Mercer & Aitchison, 1994) is used by librarians and booksellers throughout the world.

Ahouse notes in the introduction to his bibliography that “Sinclair the publicist and reformer had written uninterruptedly through three generations of social turmoil in America; few were the years between 1901 and 1962 without a new book—often two—from Upton Sinclair.”

“The collection increases the depth of our early 20th century literature holdings in our Rare Book collection,” said Greg Williams, director of archives and special collections at CSU Dominguez Hills.

College of Health, Human Services and Nursing Officials Pay Visit to State Legislature

California State University, Dominguez Hills was one of nine campuses that participated in CSU Health Professions Advocacy Day on Jan. 22, at the State Capitol in Sacramento.

The focus of the visits was to educate California lawmakers about the CSU’s varied academic programs related to the health industry and the important role campuses have in educating and training individuals in those fields in their communities.

The day provided the CSU Dominguez Hills College of Health, Human Services and Nursing an opportunity to showcase the Orthotics and Prosthetics (O&P) program, the only degree and certificated program at a California public institution and the only one housed at a VA medical center (in Long Beach), and the Master of Social Work program. The CSUDH delegation included Acting Dean Anupama Joshi, Scott Hornbeak, O&P program coordinator, and Brian Rhue, an O&P certificate alumnus (’10) who now teaches in the program, Victor Manalo, Master of Social Work interim chair, and David Gamboa, director of government and community relations.

The delegation met with State Assembly members Rocky Chávez (R-Oceanside, 76th District), Isadore Hall (D-Los Angeles, 64th District), Cheryl Brown (D-San Bernardino, 47th District) and Sebastian Ridley-Thomas (D-Los Angeles, 54th District), State Senator Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles, 26th District) and Appropriations Committee staff.

“It was really an excellent opportunity for us to have a chance to meet with representatives face to face and to talk to them specifically about the programs we offer,” Joshi said.

Recent Alumni Return to Alma Mater for Alumni Career Chat

Nine alumni panelists and about 20 other invited alumni shared details of their college days as well as how they’ve attained success early in their careers at the inaugural Alumni Career Chat held on Jan. 29.

“Our first Alumni Career Chat was a huge success,” said alumni programs director Gayle Ball-Parker (Class of ’78, B.A., psychology). “Not only did we have an overwhelming response from alumni who wanted to participate, but the students who attended were fully engaged throughout the event.”

Moderating the event, admissions supervisor at CSU Dominguez Hills and alumna Khaleah Bradshaw (’09, B.A., English) presented a series of questions, including those generated by some of the more than 50 students who packed the University Housing commons hall. Participating alumni provided a range of answers and advice, from how to select a profession to getting involved on campus and participating in community service to help build a professional network.