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Professor Donates Prized Dickens Collection to University

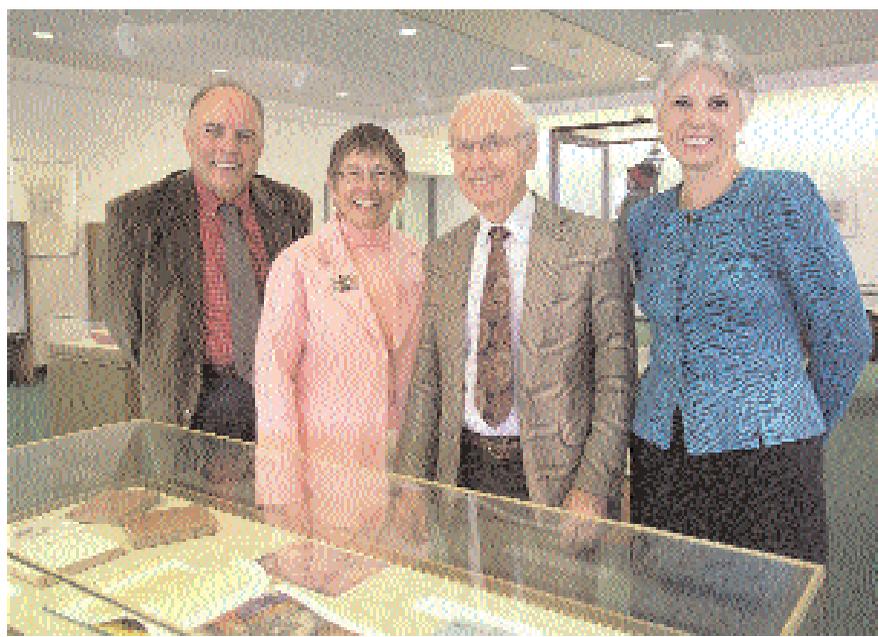
Retired English Teacher Harry Stone Spends Lifetime Amassing Thousands of Books, Writings, Illustrations

Retired Cal State Northridge English professor Harry Stone, who quietly spent a lifetime amassing one of the world's largest and finest collections of books and other materials on famed English novelist Charles Dickens, has agreed to donate the priceless collection to the university and its Oviatt Library.

"This Dickens collection is one of the three or four best in the world," said Stone, a professor *emeritus* who taught at Cal State Northridge from 1960 until his retirement in 1992. "Cal State Northridge will have a treasure that I hope will be utilized by the world and one that also will add greatly to the prestige of the university," Stone added.

University President Jolene Koester praised Stone, a 77-year-old Westside resident, for his generosity in donating the vast collection through a bequest in his estate plan. "These kinds of gifts are so special because we would never have them without the extraordinary generosity of our very dedicated faculty members, such as professor Stone," Koester said.

A sampling of the thousands of



One of the world's best Charles Dickens collections will come to the Oviatt Library courtesy of its owner, scholar Harry Stone. Pictured with works by the Victorian novelist are (from left) Special Collections and Archives Curator Tony Gardner, President Jolene Koester, Stone and Library Dean Susan Curzon.

items in the Harry Stone Dickens Collection is on display now through Wednesday, November 26 on the

second floor, west wing, of the university's Oviatt Library. The university also will honor Stone's gift with a

\$75-per-person "Traditional Dickens Dinner" on Friday, November 21, at 6 p.m. in the Oviatt Library.

A world renowned Dickens scholar who has authored or edited nine books on Dickens and contributed sections to more than a dozen others, Stone has spent the past 60 years building his personal Dickens collection literally piece-by-piece. The collection includes prized writings by Dickens, handwritten letters and photos from throughout the author's life, and an array of other items relating to Dickens and his many works.

"The power of the collection is in its wide range and completeness, offering anything you might want to study by or about Dickens. A lot of these items you won't find in any other collection," said Stone, who taught English literature at the university and specialized in Victorian literature and Dickens during his long and distinguished career.

Dickens, who authored such classics as "David Copperfield," "Oliver Twist" and "A Tale of Two Cities," is often considered the greatest novelist ever
Dickens continued on page 2.

Mild Upswing in Valley Job Rate Seen by Researchers

Northridge's Economic Research Center 'Report of Findings' Optimistic on Valley Trends

Despite ongoing job losses in the rest of Los Angeles County and the state of California, the San Fernando Valley experienced growth in 2002, according to a new study by Cal State Northridge researchers.

The Valley's private sector added 2,000 jobs in 2002 after losing nearly 4,900 in the recession the year before. The region's mild 0.3 percent job growth contrasted with private sector

job losses of 1.6 percent in Los Angeles County and 1 percent in the state, the report said.

"Relatively speaking, the Valley is in good shape," said Daniel Blake, director of Northridge's San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center. "Jobs in the Valley are growing slowly, and unemployment is slowly dropping. And though the large entertainment and manufacturing industries lost

some jobs, they were more than made up for by job growth in other areas."

Located in the College of Business and Economics, the center detailed the state of the region's economy in its yearly "Report of Findings," released at the Valley Industry and Commerce Association's 15th annual Business Forecast Conference.

Blake noted that the information industry, including entertainment,

remains the Valley's top employer, with 92,500 jobs and 22 percent of the private sector payroll. Manufacturing is second with 82,900 jobs and 13 percent of the payroll.

While both industries lost jobs in 2002—information shed 6 percent and manufacturing dropped by nearly 10 percent—job growth in the Valley's other industries made up for the
Valley Jobs continued on page 3.



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It was called "the agricultural landscape of the Valley preserved." This was how Professor Robert Gohstand described the eight-acre historic orange grove at the southeast corner of the Cal State Northridge campus, when in 1993 the campus and surrounding community were called upon to join together to save The Grove.

The resulting committee was successful in providing funding and labor to revitalize this historic grove of more than 600 orange trees. An irrigation system was installed and a number of campus and community volunteers came out to contribute their time and effort assisting with the maintenance of The Grove—one of the three largest remaining orange groves in the San Fernando Valley.

Most of the oranges grown in the CSUN Grove are Valencia, with a scattering of navel, but both kinds are sweet, delicious and organic.

Now a professor *emeritus*, Bob Gohstand is a major supporter of



Community Connection

By Judy Nutter, Director of Community Relations

the CSUN Orange Grove and very knowledgeable about the history and importance of the San Fernando Valley's agricultural heritage.

I visited with Bob last week to get some background on The Grove and we discussed the possibility of re-establishing the committee, in order to replace some of the aging trees and develop a volunteer maintenance team. I learned that The Grove was planted in 1929, making 2004 its 75th anniversary, the perfect time to celebrate this historic landmark, to renew our efforts for its preservation and to give it the opportunity to flourish.

As we all know, anything of value

requires care to retain that value. By way of this article, we invite the community to participate in caring for The Grove. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Historic Orange Grove Committee, if you'd like to learn more about The Grove, or if you just want to volunteer for some one-time maintenance, please e-mail Bob Gohstand at robert.gohstand@csun.edu. You can also call his office at (818) 677-4137, and you know that you can always contact me at (818) 677-2123.

Play a part in keeping a valuable part of San Fernando Valley history alive and well.

Until next month... ■



Student enjoys ambience of The Grove, Northridge's historic orange grove. Community volunteers are needed for preservation efforts in celebration of landmark's 75th anniversary in 2004.

Dickens...

continued from page 1.

to have written in the English language. He was born in 1812 and died in 1870.

Under the terms of Stone's bequest, the collection will remain in his family during his lifetime and then pass to the university, where it will be kept in its entirety in the Oviatt Library's Special Collections area. The collection is so large that Tony Gardner, the university's curator of Special Collections and Archives, has worked for months just beginning to catalog it.

"We are honored that this magnificent collection will be entrusted to us," said Susan Curzon, dean of the University's Library. "This is the collection of a distinguished scholar who devoted his professional life to understanding the greatest novelist of the Victorian Age. The collection will be an extraordinary resource for scholars," Curzon said.

"This resource will be of great interest to scholars from across the nation and the globe, and is a truly magnificent gift to Cal State Northridge, the community of Dickens enthusiasts, and the reading public generally," added Donald Hall, chair of the university's English Department and himself a specialist on Victorian literature.

A contemporary of Stone, veteran Northridge English professor John Clendenning, who retired this year after 43 years on campus, called him "perhaps the most distinguished scholar the English Department ever had." Clendenning added, "Professor Stone's collection is absolutely priceless. He is a bibliophile in the best sense of the word."

Stone credits his love of books and Dickens to the influence of his father Bernard, an Oxford University graduate and voracious reader, and a home environment filled with many different kinds of books. "My first exposure to Dickens occurred as a child before I could even read," Stone said, recalling seeing illustrated versions of Dickens tales in his earliest years.

After beginning to collect Dickens materials in his late teens, Stone became more active in the early 1950s when he was doing research for his doctoral degree in English literature and his dissertation on Dickens. Not only did the collecting nourish his love of books and Dickens, but it also provided the practical benefit of having his research materials close at hand.

Thus through the decades, whether at home in Los Angeles or while traveling abroad for his research in England and elsewhere, Stone made purchases with his personal funds whenever an opportunity arose. "I did it because I loved these things.

I did it because they were useful to me. A whole variety of reasons came together for me to do this," he said.

Stone came to Cal State Northridge in 1960 when the then two-year-old institution was known as San Fernando Valley State College. Apart from the current exhibition in the Oviatt Library and a prior display Stone hosted at the campus in 1962, his collection

has never been publicly available. That means it may be the finest private Dickens collection in the world.

Among the hundreds of Dickens items now on display in the Oviatt Library are a handwritten Dickens letter, all the first editions of

"The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby," an original steel etching plate used to create an illustration for "Nicholas Nickleby," a

set of Royal Doulton bone china figurines of Dickens' characters, and a Dickens board game invented by his great great granddaughter.

The broader Harry Stone Dickens Collection includes complete sets of

all of Dickens' novels as they were variously published during his lifetime, including his novels as they first appeared in monthly parts and later were published as bound books.

The collection also includes books from Dickens' personal library, drawings and illustrations about Dickens' works, books by other authors including Stone about Dickens and his characters, and even books by and about Dickens printed in other languages including French, German, Italian, Japanese, Chinese and Hebrew.

"There is a huge universe of laughter, sadness, satire and social comment in Dickens' writings," Stone said, explaining his admiration for the author. "The great thing about Dickens is he wasn't a narrow writer. He went all over the map, literally. You could be interested in many different aspects of human life and thought, and it would all be connected together.

"Studying Dickens has been a joy and a revelation to me. It was something that gave joy and meaning to my life," Stone said. "Having this collection at Cal State Northridge will allow the world to appreciate what this man did and what this man was capable of."

The current Harry Stone Dickens Collection exhibition at the Oviatt Library is free and open to the public through November 26. The Dickens Dinner honoring Stone on November 21 in the Oviatt Library has limited seating. Those interested in purchasing the \$75 per-person tickets can contact the Oviatt Library by November 17 at (818) 677-2638. ■



M. Fitzgerald's Ball
London, Chapman & Hall, 1844

University, Rotary Help Deaf Seniors Cross 'Digital Divide'

Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing Students Teach Internet Skills on Donated Computers

An inventive pilot program—the brainchild of a Cal State Northridge administrator and a Rotary International executive—is helping deaf and hard-of-hearing senior citizens cross the digital divide to the Internet.

The Deaf Senior's Computer Literacy Project is the cooperative effort of Northridge's National Center on Deafness (NCOD) and Rotary International, District 5260. Launched in early October and continuing through November 16, the program pairs 12 seniors with six computer-savvy Cal State Northridge deaf and hard-of-hearing students, who provide each senior with three sessions of personalized computer training.

Using computers donated by Rotary International, seniors receive up to three hours of training per session, depending on level of need. They learn a range of skills, including computer functions, how to use e-mail, how to access the Internet and how to use instant messaging—a means of personal communication for deaf Internet users that now rivals the use of text telephone (TTY) machines.

"This collaboration aims to relieve the concerns of seniors who feel isolated from technology and the digital world and who commonly are daunted



Merri Pearson (center), director of Cal State Northridge's National Center on Deafness, gives overview of Deaf Senior's Computer Literacy Project at program's October kick-off.

by the task of learning how to use the computer," said Merri Pearson, NCOD director. "Their new Internet skills will introduce them to a whole world of health resources, community programs and neighborhood services."

After striking up a conversation at a grocery warehouse, Pearson and Rotary International Past District

Governor John Alexander determined to find a way for NCOD and Rotary to join forces. Within a few weeks, the two had a plan for the Computer Literacy Project.

The student trainers receive \$600 stipends, half provided by local Rotary Clubs—including the North Hollywood, Studio City, Sherman

Oaks, Granada Hills, Tarzana/Encino and San Fernando Valley Northwest chapters—and half by Rotary International, through its Community Assistance Program.

Local Rotary groups also are contributing an entire year of Internet service and provider service lines for the seniors.

NCOD trained the students: junior Mick Freeland, senior Chris Le, junior Matt Guarino, sophomore Mike Catran, and graduate students Michelle Massey and Erika Leger. Its technical team delivers computers to seniors' homes and installs them along with software and modems.

According to Pearson, Rotary International may seek to replicate the program throughout the world.

The National Center on Deafness has been serving individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing since 1962. Today, the center facilitates student services to the approximately 250 deaf and hard-of-hearing students at Northridge, and operates programs of national significance, including employment and technical assistance projects.

For more information about the project, contact Pearson at (818) 677-2611 or merri.c.pearson@csun.edu. ■

Northridge Starts Debate League for High School Youth

'Words, Not Violence' Key to Project for Disadvantaged Public Schools; Open Society Institute Provides Grant

Cal State Northridge has received a grant from The Open Society Institute to establish debate teams in socio-economically disadvantaged public high schools in the Los Angeles area.

The grant, \$350,000 for one year and renewable for as many as three years, will fund the Los Angeles Urban Debate League.

"One of our goals is to teach the young people we work with to use words, as opposed to violence, to

work out their differences," said Becky Opsata, director of forensics in Northridge's Communication Studies Department. The league's mission is to empower traditionally marginalized young people by giving them a political and social forum for their views, she added.

Dozens of Cal State Northridge communication studies student volunteers will teach local high schoolers in the league how to win arguments by effectively using words. Students

from USC, Pepperdine and CSU Long Beach also will volunteer.

The high school students got their first debate learning experience at a mini-competition at Northridge in September. Through the year, they will compete throughout Southern California, hone their skills at debate workshops and attend a summer debate camp.

Seven high schools in the league—Van Nuys, North Hollywood and Cleveland among them—eventually

will compete against 14 other leagues in the U.S.

Opsata said participation in high school debate encourages critical thinking and speaking skills that are requirements for students as they become adults. "Taking part in a debate team," she said, "can really change a high schooler's life."

For more information about the Los Angeles Urban Debate League, visit its Web site at www.debatela.com. ■

Valley Jobs...

continued from page 1.

loss. Among the growth industries were health care and social assistance, about 10 percent; finance, insurance, real estate and leasing/rental, 4.6 percent; retail trade, 3.5 percent; biotech, 2.7 percent; and construction, 2.5 percent.

Seasonal factors and extended benefits accounted for eight-year highs in unemployment insurance claims during the second quarter of 2002, Blake said. Though subsequent claims waned, they still were at elevated post-recession levels.

Blake and his team found hope in Valley housing and home prices. Though home prices continued their steep ascent this summer, with median prices rising to \$369,000 and average prices close to \$420,000, a recent rise in mortgage rates seems to be slowing the rate of increase.

"There's some hint now of

moderation within the September numbers in the rate of growth in prices," Blake said.

The report noted that home sales continued at a record pace this past year and inventories fell to a 2.1-month supply, down from 2.8 months last year.

Valley apartment vacancy rates remain below 3 percent, signaling a persistently tight rental market. In response, average rents in large complexes rose 6.3 percent in 2002, and are on course for an annual increase of 8 percent in 2003.

Among other findings in the report:

Population growth: The area's population grew faster than previously reported, especially in the Valley's Los Angeles city portion, which has averaged 1.8 percent growth since 2000, instead of 0.6 percent, as previously estimated. The Valley population grew by 27,500 (1.9 percent) people

in 2002, with more than 13,000 moving into the area and the remainder coming from a natural population increase.

Payroll: The Valley's private sector payroll also grew by 1.5 percent in 2002, but its inflation-adjusted real payroll slipped by 1.2 percent relative to 2001. L.A. County's real private sector payroll dropped by 2.6 percent and California's by 4.5 percent.

Tourism: Recent Valley tourism and travel activity has been a mixed bag. Airport passenger traffic returned to pre-9/11 levels in the first half of 2003, but hotel occupancy rates remain about 5 percentage points below their pre-9/11 levels, and inflation-adjusted real room rates are 10 percent below their pre-9/11 levels.

Schools: Enrollment at Valley public schools grew 4.5 percent in 2002-2003, with the Los Angeles Unified School District growing the most at 5.7

percent. Valley private school enrollment fell 0.4 percent.

A roundup of Census 2002 data revealed that Valley residents are mobile; nearly 50 percent changed residence in the last five years. Most moved from within the county, but about 6 percent moved from elsewhere in California, 7 percent from another state and 11 percent from another country.

Faculty and students at the San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center aim to support the Valley's economy by collecting, analyzing, and reporting on economic, social, and demographic data. For a copy of the "Report of Findings," contact the center at (818) 677-7021 or at sfverc@csun.edu. ■



KCSN to 'Go Digital,' Expand Potential Audience

Cal State Northridge's award winning public radio station soon will "go digital," joining the nationwide movement toward digital programming over the airwaves.

KCSN-FM, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, will receive a portion of \$3 million in grants distributed by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) to 42 public radio stations in 13 "seed markets" across the country.

CPB President and CEO Robert Coonrod said the grants will help stations use digital technology to deliver a new level of service and sound to their listeners.

KCSN will use its grant—nearly \$110,000—to equip both its main transmitter and a new booster with HD (high definition) Radio digital technology, according to general manager Fred Johnson.

"No one had ever applied for HD Radio booster technology before KCSN," he said. "We were extremely pleased that CPB decided to accept our application, enabling us to make the leap into digital."

The booster will give KCSN the

potential to reach 400,000 new listeners on Los Angeles' Westside. Currently, it broadcasts to a projected audience of 1.5 million in its coverage area, principally in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys.

A necessary go-ahead from the Federal Communications Commission, required to proceed with the experimental project, is expected at the beginning of the new year, Johnson said.

The payoff in what Coonrod calls a "richer" sound will come later, Johnson noted. "This is a first phase technology, an injection of digital technology within our existing analog technology. But it is a step towards the enriched sound that will come when 100 percent digital technology is available in home and car radios everywhere."

KCSN's eclectic programming ranges from classical to surf music as well as informational formats and student-produced newscasts.

Cal State Long Beach's KKJZ and three other public radio stations in the Los Angeles region also received first round funding from CPB. ■



Sam Britten, or "Dr. Sam," is joined by Interim Provost Linda Bain, College of Health and Human Development Dean Helen Castillo, and Kinesiology Department chair Carole Oglesby at October retirement tribute to Britten's 45 years at Northridge. Britten founded and directed the Abbott and Linda Brown Western Center for Adaptive Aquatic Therapy and the Center of Achievement for the Physically Disabled.

December Calendar

The A.S. Ticket Office in Nordhoff Hall sells tickets to many events on campus, except for some held by outside groups. The Ticket Office is open from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Mon.–Fri. For prices not given, call (818) 677-2488.

Art and Exhibits

Admission is free unless specified. For more info, call (818) 677-2156. Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat. 12-4 p.m.

Seventh Annual High School Invitational

San Fernando Valley high school students showcase their artwork through a variety of media including painting, sculpture, video and graphic design. Opens Fri., Dec. 5 and runs through Sat., Jan. 10, 2004. Exhibit will be closed Wed., Dec. 24 through Sat., Jan. 3. Opening reception: Fri., Dec. 5, 7–9 p.m. Gallery Talk: Mon., Dec. 8, 10 a.m. Cal State Northridge Art Galleries



Donald E. Bianchi Planetarium

"An Introduction to Eclipse Chasing" Sat., Dec. 6

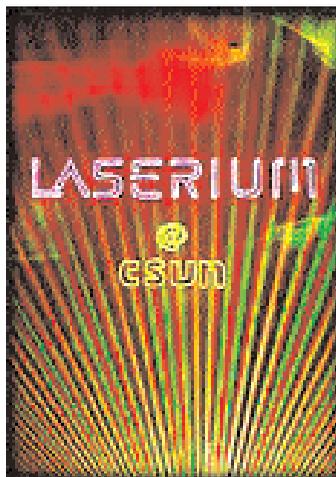
"Winter Sky Tour" Sat., Dec. 13

"The Search for Life in the Universe" Sat. Dec. 20

All shows begin at 7 p.m., no late seating.

For ticket info, (818) 677-2488 or visit

www.csun.edu/physics/planetarium



Laserium Show

Featuring L.A.S.E.R. Amazement, The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, and Pink Floyd. Donald E. Bianchi Planetarium Thu.–Sun. through December. For ticket and schedule info, (818) 677-2488 or visit www.laserium.com

Athletics (home games):

Men's Basketball

12/3	Montana	7:05 p.m.
12/22	Portland State	7:05 p.m.
12/30	Lafayette	7:05 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

11/25	USC	7 p.m.
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Film

Screenings are free and take place in the Alan and Elaine Armer Theater, on the first floor of Manzanita Hall at the southwest corner of campus. For more info, call (818) 677-3192 or see www.csuncinematheque.com.

Art Films

"The Cradle Will Rock" and "Frida." Wed., Dec. 3, 7–11 p.m.

Music

Admission to all music events (unless otherwise specified): \$10 general, \$7 faculty, staff and seniors, \$5 students.

Youth Orchestra

Sun., Nov. 23, 3 p.m. Performing Arts Center

Cal State Northridge Wind Symphony

Conducted by Timothy Howard. Mon., Nov. 24, 8 p.m. Performing Arts Center

Matador Master Chorale

Conducted by Paul Smith. Tue., Nov. 25, 8 p.m. Performing Arts Center

Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Directed by Matt Falker. Wed., Nov. 26, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Film Scoring and Songwriting Review

Directed by Elizabeth Sellers. Mon., Dec. 1, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Opera Workshop

Directed by Ann Baltz. Tue., Dec. 2, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

CSUN Wind Ensemble

Conducted by William Bing. Wed., Dec. 3, 8 p.m. Performing Arts Center

CSUN Steel Drum Band

Directed by Gee Rabe. Thu., Dec. 4, 8 p.m. Performing Arts Center

CSUN Symphony

Conducted by John Roscigno. Fri., Dec. 5, 8 p.m. Performing Arts Center

Northridge Singers Choir of the World

Conducted by Paul Smith. Sat., Dec. 6, 8 p.m. Performing Arts Center

Piano Performance

Brahms Piano Trio Mon., Dec. 8, 8 p.m. Performing Arts Center Admission: \$26 general, \$23 seniors, \$9 students with ID, \$5 CSUN students with ID.

Theater/Performance

Six by Lorca

Short plays. Sun., Nov. 23, 3 p.m. Studio Theatre, Nordhoff Hall 113 \$15 general, \$13 seniors, \$12 faculty/staff with ID, \$10 students with ID.

Riders in the Sky Christmas Show

Admission: \$45–\$30 adults, \$15 students with ID, \$20–\$15 children under 12. Performing Arts Center

Pacific Dance Academy Nutcracker Performance

Sat., Dec. 13 and Sun., Dec. 14, 4 and 7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center

Media Center Ballet "Christmas Carol."

Fri., Dec. 19, 8 p.m. Sat., Dec. 20 and Sun., Dec. 21, 2 and 8 p.m. Performing Arts Center



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