

Volume 12

## WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Doug Fraser was one of America's great labor leaders. He was a metal finisher who, as president of the United Automobile Workers, became one of the most prominent labor leaders of the 20th century. He was a statesman, who worked with presidents and prime ministers, and a distinguished university professor. After all of his success, Fraser still preferred to be called "Doug."

Born the son of an electrician in Glasgow, Scotland in 1916, Fraser came to Detroit with his family at age 6. He joined the fledgling United Automobile Workers (UAW) union after going to work at Chrysler's De Soto plant in 1937, and at age 27 was elected president of Local 227. In 1947, Fraser was appointed to the UAW international staff and assigned to the union's Chrysler Department. In 1950, he caught the eye



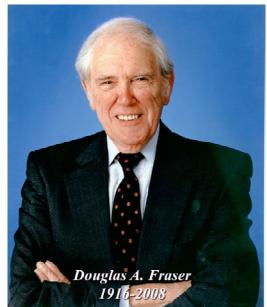
Doug Fraser watches a skilled tradesman on a visit to an automotive factory.

of then-UAW President Walter P. Reuther, who selected Fraser as his administrative assistant. This was the beginning of a close relationship. Fraser and Reuther led the union's bargaining committee at Chrysler, where in 1964 the UAW won the first US-Canada wage parity agreement.

Fraser steadily rose through the ranks of the UAW. Along the way, he earned great respect for his integrity, leadership, and negotiating skills. Fraser was elected co-director of Region 1A in 1959. Three years later, he was elected to

the union's International Executive Board. Fraser became an international vice president in 1970 and was elected UAW president in 1977.

In 1973, Fraser's bargaining set a pattern for the auto industry after a successful strike. Contract gains included a comprehen-



sive health and safety program, an improved early retirement plan, dental care, and accelerated arbitration.

2008

Fraser was perhaps best known for his efforts to save a near-bankrupt Chrysler in 1979. This was an unprecedented crisis for the UAW, and Fraser was a key figure in negotiating a government loan to save Chrysler. The UAW also gained representation on the company's Board of Directors, of which Fraser was a member from 1980 until 1984.

After retiring from the UAW in 1983, Fraser began a rewarding second career as University Professor of Labor Studies at Wayne State University. In 1998, in his honor, the Douglas A. Fraser Center for Workplace Issues was established in

the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and housed at the Walter P. Reuther Library.

Doug Fraser passed away on February 23, 2008. He worked steadily until about two weeks before his death. For twenty-three years, Doug was a great professor at



Doug Fraser and President Jimmy Carter meet in the Oval Office, November 14, 1980.

Memorial Event and Exhibit Opening are on page 5.

Reuther Library. We shall miss him dearly. Wayne State University, the UAW, and the Reuther Library hosted a memorial for Doug Fraser on April 12, 2008. The Reuther

opened an exhibit that same

day which is devoted to the

history of the life and times

of a great labor leader and

professor. Images of the

Wayne State University,

and an outstanding col-

league to the staff of the

# Collections Open for Research

### The AFSCME Public Policy Collection

#### 1968-1981 [5 l.f.]

The papers of the AFSCME Public Policy Collection contain records from the AFSCME Department of Public Policy Analysis. The AFSCME Department of Public Policy Analysis was active in the 1970s in reviewing, analyzing, and influencing public policy and legislation that could directly or indirectly affect the livelihoods of AFSCME members. The main subject of this collection is deinstitutionalization, the term given to the process where mentally ill patients were moved out of large public hospitals and into smaller community-based treatment facilities. Materials in the collection cover a wide range of policy and legislative issues, including state economics, conditions for mental health care workers, and deinstitutionalization.

# The American Federation of Teachers (AFT): Oregon Federation of Teachers

1974-2004 [2 l.f.]

The AFT Oregon Federation of Teachers (OFT) Collection documents the activities of the OFT, primarily in the Portland area.



This collection includes both the papers of the OFT and the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP). The OFT was chartered in June 1952 and during that decade was successful in

securing teacher tenure laws. During the uccede was bacecostan in OFT grew in size by organizing more workers in K-12, community college, higher education, nursing, and classified positions. In the 1990s the OFT changed its name by convention to the Oregon Federation of Teachers, Education and Health Professionals (OFTHEP). The OFTHEP continued to help locals in the state with bargaining, grievances, and arbitrations.

## Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid the Farm Workers

#### 1980-1989 [2 l.f.]

The Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid the Farm Workers Collection contains material related to this branch of the National Farm Workers Ministry (NFWM). NFWM brings together national denominations, state councils of churches, religious orders and congregations, and concerned individuals to act with farm workers to achieve fundamental change in their living and working conditions. This collection mostly contains newspaper clippings and pamphlets from the struggles of the UFW during the 1980s. Some important subjects covered within the collection are cancer clusters, female labor, immigration, and pesticides.

### National Farm Worker Ministry [Pt. III]

### 1956-1985 [7 l.f.]

Part III of the National Farm Worker Ministry Collection covers the United Farm Workers' (UFW) Grape Boycott in the 1980s as well as pesticides issues. Some important subjects covered in this collection are church work with migrant labor, strikes and lockouts, and labor legislation. The collection also contains correspondence from Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. A large portion of these files reflects the work of Sister Patricia Drydyk, an organizer for the NFWM and the UFW.

## United Farm Workers Office of the President [Pt. III]

1970-1979 [13 l.f.]

A portion of the United Farm Workers, Office of the President Part III is now open. These papers reflect Cesar Chavez' activities coordinating the grape and lettuce boycotts and his work with the campaign to ban pesticides. Also relevant in the collection are materials relating to the formation of the California Agircultural Labor Relations Board in 1975. The collection also includes relevant correspondence.



UFW President Cesar Chavez is inter viewed by the media as he pickets in front of a grocery store, ca. 1973.

## The Detroit Recreation Department Dance Program: The Shirley Harbin Collection

### 1912-1992 [5 l.f.]

The collection includes materials related to the administration, performances, scripts, and plans of the Dance Program, along with references to other dance studios and initiatives in the Detroit metro area. Of special research value is the large collection of documents that show original choreographed dances dating from 1924. The dances indicate the particular musical score to which the counts and measures have been assigned.

# Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives:

## Sinai Hospital of Detroit

#### 1900-1999 [25 l.f.]

The papers within this collection document the Detroit Jewish community's history of commitment to medical care and the eventual development of a hospital.

Medical services for Detroit's Jewish population began in 1900



when free clinical care was provided under the auspices of the Ladies Society for the Care of Widows and Orphans. Because of discrimination at existing hospitals in Detroit, the need to provide staff affiliations for Jewish doctors, and the desire for

Sinai Hospital, 1958.

a facility that provided kosher food, the Jewish Hospital Association was organized in 1912.

In 1937 the Jewish Hospital Association, the Jewish Welfare Federation, and local Jewish physicians helped organize the Mt. Sinai Hospital Association. Fund-raising for the hospital began in 1944 and by 1945, \$2.3 million was raised. Ground was broken for the hospital on January 14, 1952 and it opened in 1953 with a budget of \$2 million, 238 beds, and the only kosher hospital kitchen in Michigan. The hospital continued to grow and when Mt. Sinai closed in 1999, there were 603 beds and the budget was \$253 million. That year the hospital's services were moved to nearby Grace Hospital which was renamed Sinai-Grace.

Important subjects covered within the Sinai Hospital Collection are Jewish immigrants, the North End Clinic, and the Sinai merger with the Detroit Medical Center.

## Society of Women Engineers (SWE): National Records

1949-2003, bulk 1950s-1980s [180 l.f.]

The SWE National Records document the operations, entities, programs, members, and activities of the Society from its inception.

SWE became a national organization on May 27-28, 1950. Throughout its history, the Society's main focus has been career guidance using conferences, scholarships, and awards. SWE also used other



SWE members at a picnic at Green Engineering Camp of the Cooper Union during the May 27-28, 1950 founding meeting of SWE.

programs to encourage women to enter or return to the engineering profession and to attain high levels of educational and professional achievement. It has sought to publicize the role of women in engineering, to place them in engineering jobs, and to promote them in industry and professional circles. It has also served as a center of information on women in engineering and allied itself with other organizations to promote equal opportunities and equal rights for women.

The SWE collection includes correspondence, minutes, reports, speeches, biographies, articles, clippings, and statistics.



The Change to Win (CtW) Federation recently designated the Reuther Library as the official Repository for its historical records. The Change to Win Federation is comprised of seven labor organizations with a combined membership of six million. Chaired by Anna Burger, this federation was founded in 2005 "to build a new movement of working people equipped to meet the challenges of the global economy and restore the American Dream in the 21st century." With this addition, the Reuther is now home to one labor federation and 12 international labor unions. In the coming years, researchers will have an even wider variety and breadth of records to review as they write about the labor movement and a multitude of related people, organizations, and issues.

# University Archives

### Wayne State: 75 Years of Learning

Wayne State celebrates seventyfive years as a university in 2008. Although one might find the true beginning of Wayne State University on November 3, 1868, when the first lecture was given at the Detroit Medical College, the origins of Wayne as a university occurred seventy-five years ago on August 8, 1933. Five separate schools, the Detroit Medical College, Detroit Teacher's College, College of the City of Detroit, the School of Pharmacy, and the Detroit Law School were combined to form a university named, "The Colleges of the City of Detroit." One year later, the

name "Wayne," which honored Revolutionary War hero General Anthony Wayne, was selected as the university's official title.

Wayne University grew larger and stronger with each passing year. Civic leaders, Detroit residents, and educators alike provided tremendous support for the ideal of higher education in the city. Wayne's first two presidents, Frank Cody and Warren Bow, also served as President of the Detroit Board of Education, and the young university shared funding with other public schools in the city. Anticipating the large enrollments of returning veterans from World War II, state funding was obtained in order to create new classroom space. The university's

Telling the World It Is Wayne University Now



Sindents of the Detroit municipal colleges are underlaking a rampaign to familiarize Detroiters with the new name of their institution, Wayne Calverrity, with pine, automobile sinkstex and hanners hearing the designation. Mr. Schlen, dans of sindents, received the first pinrear Virginia, Children and the first dirker from Namer Jean Finner.

first modern classrooms, State and Science Halls, opened in 1947, as the urban campus in Detroit expanded after the war.

When Governor Williams signed Public Act 183 on April 22, 1956, the unique relationship with the Detroit Board of Education ended. The "City College," as Wayne had long been known, became the third major state-supported university in Michigan.

The early supporters of higher education in Detroit would be very pleased with Wayne's progress over the years. Beginning with five colleges, Wayne now supports twelve,

and from an initial graduating class in 1933 of 427 students, over 3000 received degrees in 2008. Seventy-five years later, Wayne State University takes great pride in its reputation as a

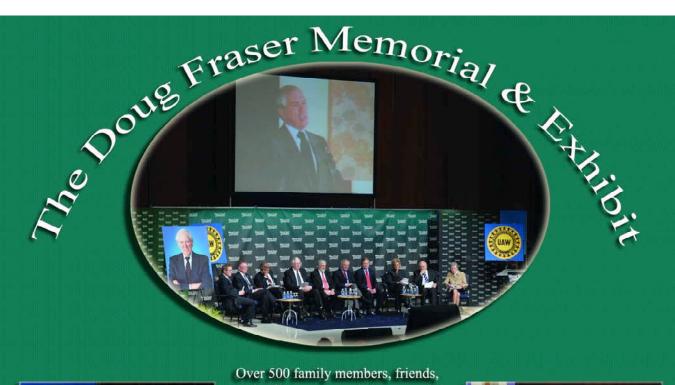
nationally ranked research university.



Members of the Class of 1933 proudly hold up their banner in a parade around campus.



The Detroit Medical College, 1870.





and colleagues attended a memorial for Doug Fraser that was held at Wayne State University on April 12, 2008.



Above: UAW President Ron Gettelfinger remembers the late Doug Fraser. Below: Members of the audience honor Doug Fraser's memory by joining hands to sing the song "Solidarity

Forever.



Above: Former UAW President, Owen Bieber speaks with former Michigan Senator Donald Riegle.





Left: Attendees enjoy the wonderful food prepared by a chef at the Doug Fraser Exhibit Reception.

Right: Congressman Jonh Dingell, former Congressman David Bonior retired, and former Metro Detroit AFL-CIO President, Donald Boggs .



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## Thank You For Your Support

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## Audiovisual Department

### Image Galleries Now Available on the Reuther Website

The Reuther Library is pleased to announce an upgrade to our website that will make research in our visual collections faster and easier: the addition of image galleries. Available to the public in the fall of 2008, the galleries showcase images from donor unions and highlight areas of special interest within the general collections and are currently available for The United Auto Workers (UAW), Society of Women Engineers (SWE), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), United Farm Workers (UFW), American Federation of State, County, and



Municipal Employees (AFSMCE), and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Available at www.reuther.wayne.edu, the galleries are easily searched, provide patrons with descriptive information relating to each image, and offer the option to view the images at different sizes.

The new online content represents a small fraction of the nearly two million still images in the collections of the Reuther Library and are frequently updated. In the coming year, galleries devoted to the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), Civil Rights, the Flint Sit Down Strike of 1937, and the photographs of Tony Spina, a chief photographer for the Detroit Free Press, will also be added.

In addition to the photographs highlighted above, researchers can also find images online through our digital projects "No Greater Calling," a photographic history of the life of Walter Reuther, and the "Virtual Motor City," a collection of 36,000 images taken from the *Detroit News* photonegative collection. For more information on our online audiovisual holdings, please contact reutherav@wayne.edu or (313) 577-4024.



## For an up-to-date listing of Reuther Library events, log on to our website at www.reuther.wayne.edu

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