Alumnus Norman Powell has given a $5 million gift to create an endowment that will support the highest priorities of UCLA’s university librarian. As a UCLA undergraduate, Powell took two years of liberal arts courses before changing his major and graduating in 1959 with a degree in earth physics. Over the next three decades, he worked in California and Libya as a field engineer running borehole geophysical surveys, as a research physicist for Chevron, in technical service and exploration consulting, and as an executive consultant with British Petroleum. After retiring in 1990, he became an environmental activist with a focus on local open space and conservation issues in Southern California. He is the son of former UCLA University Librarian Lawrence Clark Powell, in whose honor Powell Library was named in 1966. The gift is part of the $4.2 billion UCLA Centennial Campaign, which is scheduled to conclude in December 2019 during UCLA’s 100th anniversary year.

Acquisitions

“The Papers of Tom Brokaw: A Life and Career,” has been donated to the University of Iowa (UI) Libraries. The collection includes papers and artifacts spanning Brokaw’s 50 years with NBC, which he says were filled with “seismic events.” Those events included the collapse of the Soviet Union, the rebirth of China as a world power, the turbulent years of the United States in the second half of the 20th century, and the rise of the digital age. Brokaw chose the UI as the home for his collection because of its library facilities. After the UI Libraries initiated what Brokaw calls a “detailed and ambitious idea of accepting, organizing, and displaying my papers and other artifacts,” he says he flew to Iowa City to learn more. The collection will be available in the spring of 2017.

The Dr. Harry Brod Masculinity Studies Collection has been acquired by the Miriam B. and James J. Mulva Library of St. Norbert College in Wisconsin. The collection, named for its benefactor, contains a variety of materials from Brod, a founding figure in the field of masculinities studies. The archive contains books, journals, articles, drawings political cartoons, pamphlets, personal correspondences, and handwritten research notes Brod collected and kept as mementos throughout his years in higher education. Brod is St. Norbert College’s first semester-long distinguished visiting scholar. A professor of philosophy and humanities at the University of Northern Iowa, he is widely considered a leading scholar in masculinities studies. His research interests cover a variety of topics, including gender studies, Jewish studies, social and political theory, modern European thought, critical studies of masculinities, whitenesses, and heterosexualities.

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