The Pollak Library has been home to the “Dune” manuscripts since 1967. In October, the library will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the popular science fiction epic “Dune” with a speaker series and exhibition called “Dune: From Print to Cinema and Beyond.”

Aug. 27, 2015

The Pollak Library will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the popular science fiction epic “Dune” this fall with a speaker series, an exhibition called “Dune: From Print to Cinema and Beyond,” film screenings and a costume contest.

The exhibit, expected to open in October in the Salz-Pollak Atrium Gallery, will highlight author Frank Herbert’s creative process, and illustrate the impact of his scholarship and imagination. It will include the university’s Frank
Herbert manuscript collection, artwork by campus artists and other collectibles.

The speakers series is an interdisciplinary collaboration that features experts discussing the present-day relevance of the political and environmental themes in the novel and their implications to contemporary society.

Cal State Fullerton acquired the "Dune" manuscripts in the late 1960s from Herbert. He and the late Willis E. McNelly, CSUF professor of English and renowned science fiction scholar and critic, had developed a close relationship over the years. McNelly edited the critically acclaimed "Dune Encyclopedia," and Herbert lectured in McNelly's science fiction class.

McNelly characterized "Dune" as "a major work of ecological and sociological importance." It won both the Hugo and Nebula awards as the best science fiction novel of year.

Along with the manuscripts from his six-book series, "The Dune Chronicles," Herbert donated short stories, "California Living" articles, correspondence and research files — contributions that continued until his death in 1986. The collection includes all of Herbert’s personal copies of his books, both hardback and paperback, including in every language in which the books have been published.

The manuscripts include the second, third and fourth drafts of "Dune," including handwritten revisions by Herbert.

Patricia Prestinary, university archives and special collections archivist, is curating the print collection, and Cliff Cramp, CSUF professor of art, is curating the artwork.