Over 100 people attended the Discovering Kristin Saleri Gala Donors Dinner on Friday, February 5—the night before the public opening. Dr. Nansen Saleri, the artist’s son, and his wife, Marina, brought their three children and their spouses from Houston. Dr. Saleri’s nephew also came from Washington, DC. The Houston delegation included nine others, among them Laura Kreft (Director) and Michael Collins (Artist-in-Residence) from the Fine Arts Museum of Houston Baptist University, both of whom spoke during the program.

Peter McDonald, master of ceremonies and Dean of Library Services, thanked the 26 sponsors. University President Joseph Castro welcomed guests, and Dr. Saleri was the keynote speaker. Dr. Saleri expressed his gratitude for the first full-gallery retrospective of his mother’s artwork. He gave a moving description of growing up in Turkey as one of twin sons of a woman for whom art was her life’s work.

By coincidence, February 5 also marked the 50th wedding anniversary of Geri and Jerry Tahajian. So many of their friends joined them for the celebration that they spilled over onto a second table.

Among the honored guests were the members of the Discovering Kristin Saleri Committee—Larry Balakian, Joyce Kiirejczyk, Annette Paxton, Regina Peters, Geri Tahajian and Carol Tikijian.

Dinner was preceded by a champagne reception with Armenian appetizers in honor of the artist’s heritage. An elegant dinner was served on the second floor of the Library, featuring lamb chops and premium Fresno State wines. The President’s Quintet serenaded guests during the reception.

The Henry Madden Library is grateful to the following sponsors of this event:

Legacy Sponsor: Kristin Saleri Art Foundation • Masterpiece Sponsor: Roxie Moradian, Educational Employees Credit Union
Discovering Kristin Saleri Exhibition

The Discovering Kristin Saleri exhibition was born from a son's promise to his dying mother. Kristin Saleri, born in Turkey to Armenian parents during the first year of the genocide, was a child artist prodigy. During her lifetime, she received art training in Greece, Rome and Paris and produced 3,000 artworks. Her work was highly regarded in her home country of Turkey and exhibited in European collections, but was virtually unknown in the United States—home to her two sons.

On her deathbed in 2006, she asked her son, Dr. Nansen Saleri, “What will happen to my art? Will I be forgotten?”

He replied, “Mother, I will make sure that you will be as famous as Van Gogh.”

Dr. Saleri connected with Fresno State through Larry Balakian, who helped bring the first full gallery exhibition of Kristin Saleri’s work to the Henry Madden Library. Artists Joyce Kierejczyk and Carol Tikijian, who curated the Fresno Art Museum’s 2015 exhibition of works by prominent Armenian artists, served as curators for the Saleri show.

Eighty elegantly framed artworks were shipped to the Madden Library from Houston and Washington, DC. Most were oil paintings, but drawings, ceramics and a glass-plate painting were included. Also in the show were self portraits and nudes, which had never been exhibited before.

One of the artist’s personal favorites was a painting titled, “The Orchestra,” which won the top juried prize in a 1969 competition held during the inauguration of Istanbul’s Atatürk Cultural Center. Because of this honor, the painting was to be displayed in the Center, but when authorities discovered that Saleri was Armenian, the prize was rescinded. Through a fortunate turn of fate, this rejection allowed the painting to survive because the Center and all its contents were burned during anti-government protests the following year.

The Saleri exhibition was on view from February 6 through May 31, 2016.

www.kristinsaleri.com
On April 29, the Madden Library again partnered with the Central Valley Water Awareness Committee to present a program complementing their May Water-Wise Give-and-Take Event. The Library’s program featured Mark Grossi, an award-winning reporter, editor and columnist who served as *The Fresno Bee* environment/science writer for over 20 years.

Despite recent El Niño rains, groundwater remains one of our region’s most important and controversial issues. Mr. Grossi presented a historical introduction to the topic and outlined what is being done in Fresno County and other California regions to address our dropping groundwater table and diminishing resources.

His talk was followed by a lively question and answer session with many of the 120 attendees. The quality and intensity of the questions reflected the audience’s recognition that the topic is crucial to those who live in our region.

Mr. Grossi won recognition as a journalist in several national competitions, including Investigative Reporters and Editors, National Press Club and John B. Oakes Award at Columbia University. He was awarded a yearlong science writing fellowship at MIT and a 2016 writing fellowship by the Alicia Patterson Foundation to write about environmental risks of living in rural communities around the San Joaquin Valley.

Verdi Quartett

The Friends of the Madden Library was fortunate to host a March 4 performance by Germany’s Verdi Quartett during their weeklong visit to campus. Over 125 people attended the performance in the Table Mountain Rancheria Reading Room, which featured Mozart’s String Quartet No. 14 in G Major, Shostakovich’s Adagio and Allegretto and Benjamin Boone’s new work, “Slam.”

The Verdi Quartett, composed of violinists Susanne Rabenschlag and Matthias Ellinger, violist Karin Wolf and cellist Zoltán Paulich, is widely considered one of Germany’s leading chamber music ensembles. The Quartett has been praised for its “nobility and subtlety” (*Augsburger Allgemeine, Germany*) and its “wistful and completely enthralling playing” (*Allgäuer Zeitung, Germany*). Since 2004, the Quartett has been in residence at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Mannheim. These four colleagues have recorded 20 acclaimed CDs and performed throughout Europe, North America, Asia and Africa.

During the week preceding the performance, the Verdi Quartett worked with Fresno State students, giving a variety of master classes and lessons. Funding for these activities was provided by the Fresno State Associated Students, Inc.

www.verdi-quartett.com/en/
Leon S. Peters Papers Go Live!

The Madden Library’s Special Collections Research Center proudly announces its first fully digitized collection—the Leon S. Peters Papers. Generously funded by the Leon S. Peters Foundation, the project took over four years and countless hours of scanning and noting each object’s details. Special Collections and Archives Specialist, Adam Wallace, is one of the Library’s digitization experts and was hired to complete the project in addition to his fulltime job.

Through a combination of tenacity, keen business acumen and hard work, Leon S. Peters became one of the most successful businessmen in the Valley. More importantly, “Mr. Fresno,” as he was known, became a noted philanthropist whose name graces many Fresno buildings. He inspired a whole generation to follow him in his community and charitable work. His legacy lives on through his papers and the lives of the many Leon S. Peters Award winners, whose stories are also archived in Special Collections thanks to the tireless efforts and fundraising of the Peters Archives and Legacy group (Ken Peters, Bud Richter, Bob Oliver and the late Pete Mehas), fondly known as PAL.

Leon Samuel Peters was born on October 28, 1905, near Fowler, California, to parents Samuel and Lily Peters. He was the oldest of five children. In 1907, the Peters family purchased a 40-acre ranch outside of Fowler, where Peters spent his childhood. From 1926 to 1929, Peters worked for his uncle’s grape packing and shipping business. In 1929, he met with representatives of Valley Foundry and Machine Works to negotiate the price and installation of a new well pump on the Peters ranch.

Mr. Firstenberger, the manager of Valley Foundry, was so impressed with Peters’s negotiating skills that he remarked that if Peters could “sell like he bought,” he would offer him a job. Peters was very successful at selling pumps and soon became the sole salesperson at Valley Foundry. At Peters’s suggestion, the Foundry diversified to create more work and income during the Great Depression. When Prohibition was repealed in 1933, Valley Foundry began producing winery equipment. In 1940, Peters purchased Valley Foundry. During World War II, Peters secured several government contracts to make machinery for the war effort. After World War II, Peters became increasingly active in the community, joining the Fresno Chamber of Commerce and the Fresno Rotary Club. Peters also became very involved with Fresno Community Hospital and Fresno State—the two main beneficiaries of his philanthropy. In November 1983, Leon S. Peters passed away. He is gone, but not forgotten.

To view the Leon S. Peters Papers online, go to: http://cdmweb.lib.csufresno.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/LSPeters
To view the Leon S. Peters Legacy Collection, go to: http://cdmweb.lib.csufresno.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/LeonSPeters

Special thanks to the Peters Archives and Legacy group and the Leon S. Peters Foundation for their faith, trust and generosity, which made all of this possible.

Fig Garden Woman’s Club Donates Archives to Madden Library

The Madden Library is partnering with the Fig Garden Woman’s Club to preserve the Club’s valuable historical documents. Last fall, the Club archives were transferred to the Library’s Special Collections Research Center, where they will be housed under archival conditions and made accessible to students, faculty, researchers and the community.

The Club was established in 1921. Its archives include valuable information about not only their organization, but also the history of our community and region. For example, the Club was instrumental in starting Christmas Tree Lane. The records contain a roster of important civic leaders throughout the 20th century along with careful documentation of their contributions, activities and concerns.

Monica Balch, Club President, says “I am delighted that the archives will be preserved and made available to the community whose history they evidence.”

Tammy Lau, head of the Library’s Special Collections Research Center, says the Center houses a number of books about Fig Garden and important past community members.

“We have significant manuscript collections that document local history, such as the Woodward Family Collection and the McLane/Harris Family Papers,” says Lau. “Special Collections is committed to preserving and making historical collections available to researchers now and in the future. We preserve today what will be priceless in the years to come.”

The Center houses the finest collection of Central California rare books, local history and other specialized and unique collections. All are welcome to view these vast regional and international holdings.

Learn more at: www.library.fresnostate.edu/about/collections
George Buck Donates Record-breaking 4,000 CDs to Library’s Music & Media Collection

In 1932, Fresno State became the first school in the California State College system to collect sound recordings for use by the entire campus. More than 80 years later, the Madden Library’s Music & Media collection is one of the largest on the West Coast and the largest in the CSU system.

But over the last two years, George Buck made history when he donated over 4,000 music compact discs to the Madden Library, making it the largest gift on record to the Music & Media collection. Buck also donated 15 volumes of valuable reference works that will aid students with their coursework.

Buck’s collection is important because it includes many fine examples of important artists performing great works of classical music. His collection also includes many in-demand genres that are currently under-represented in the Library. Students will now have access to classic renditions of instrumental and vocal jazz, big band music, country music and opera.

Buck’s first gift to the Music & Media Library was in 2005 after the death of his friend, Herb Everett. As manager of Tower Records, Everett amassed a large collection of CDs. Everett left his collection to Buck with instructions that Buck give anything he didn’t want to the Madden Library.

Buck’s mother played classical piano, his father sang opera and his brother played Dixieland jazz. Buck’s collection launched in 1955 with a gift of Cuban music from a fellow Army officer. Buck’s favorite instrument is the piano. His favorite acquisition is a set of CDs of Arthur Rubinstein playing Chopin, which he will donate to the Library this summer.

Buck and his wife, Bunny, live in northwest Fresno. He is a retired Crocker Bank branch manager who came to Fresno to work for United Security Bank. As an inveterate collector and donor, he continues to acquire music and make gifts.

Terry Lewis, Music & Media Library Services Specialist, says the Library gratefully encourages and accepts donations of CDs.

“Although digital music is taking over and is the way of the future, there are still many students and faculty at Fresno State that prefer to listen to their music on CDs,” says Lewis. “There are also many CD recordings that for various reasons (copyright issues, label issues, artist disputes) will never be transferred to a digital format. It is therefore important that we continue to collect CDs for as long as possible, for archival purposes and to allow students access to recordings that may otherwise disappear.”

The Music & Media collection spans every conceivable genre—from classical to rap, opera to country, musical theatre to Top 40, world music to jazz. Donations in all genres are welcome.

Anonymous Donor Gifts Research Fellowships to the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children’s Literature

The Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children’s Literature is pleased to announce two new programs funded by an anonymous donor. The Arne Nixon Center will award two Research Fellowships to support scholars from outside the Fresno/Clovis area engaged in graduate-level, post-doctoral and independent research. The Fellowships have been created to encourage innovative and robust inquiry into the varied aspects of children’s literature. Proposals will be chosen by committee and based on significance to the study of children’s literature, likelihood of publication or other dissemination of the work and relevance of the project to the Arne Nixon Center’s holdings. Acknowledgment of the Arne Nixon Center in all published or otherwise disseminated material is required. Stipends up to $2,000 will be awarded this fall to those who meet the given criteria.

A second gift from the same donor will result in an Artist-in-Residence program. A chosen young adult writer will be awarded a $10,000 Fellowship to spend a week on the Fresno State campus working with students in English and education classes. Folded into existing topic courses, the artist will work with students on the craft of writing and the use of fiction in the Common Core curriculum.

A culminating showcase of student work will cap off the week. During his or her stay, the artist will also visit two high schools and give a presentation to the public. The Artist-in-Residence program begins spring 2017.

Through the generosity of our donors, these exciting, new programs can now be offered.

The Arne Nixon Center is one of the West Coast’s largest and most significant research centers for the study of children’s literature. With an emphasis on diversity, the Arne Nixon Center’s collection includes more than 60,000 books, original artwork, letters, photographs, newspaper clippings, ceramics and other ephemera.

For more information, go to: www.arnenixoncenter.org
Vintage Baseball Card Exhibition

The Chicago Cubs last won the World Series 107 years ago, led by Fresno High School alumnus and player-manager Frank Chance, now best remembered by the Tinker-to-Evers-to-Chance refrain from the poem, “Baseball’s Sad Lexicon.”

The cards of Chance, fellow Baseball Hall of Famers Tom Seaver and Bobby Cox, and 25 other pre-2000 major-league players with Fresno-area ties were exhibited at Fresno State's Henry Madden Library from April 1 to May 30, 2016. The exhibit was curated by Jeff Jaech, an attorney with Baker, Manock & Jensen and a longtime Friend of the Madden Library. Jaech is the founder of the American Baseball Card Museum.

The display of over 380 baseball cards from the 20th Century was the inaugural exhibition of the Fresno-based American Baseball Card Museum. The Museum is a new nonprofit organization with the mission to promote and facilitate the study and appreciation of American culture, history, and art through baseball cards.

The Museum’s strategy is to build its collection with tax-deductible card donations from aging collectors.

Most local baseball fans recognized the featured players from the 1960s and later, such as Dick Ellsworth, Jim Maloney, Pat Corrales, Rex Hudler and Tom Goodwin. Few recognized colorful old-timers like Frenchy Bordagaray, the only major league player to wear a mustache between 1914 and 1972, or Hub Leonard, holder of the modern-era season record for lowest ERA from his 1914 season, and who accused Ty Cobb and Tris Speaker of conspiring to throw a game.

The exhibit included over 35 Frank Chance tobacco and candy cards from the beginning of the century, over 30 different Dave Henderson cards from near the end of the century, and many cards in-between. There were cards from the T206 set (the set that has the iconic Honus Wagner card), from American Caramel, T205, Goudy Gum, Sporting News, Play Ball, Bazooka, Mecca, Turkey Red, Hassan, National Chicle, Red Heart, Signal Gas, Zeenut, Bowman, and Kellogg sets, and from nearly every Topps set from its initial one in 1951 through 1999.

The show also featured cutting-edge augmented reality technology to enhance the visitor’s experience. A supplemental app, the American Baseball Card Museum Fresno cARd Exhibit app created by University of Iowa Journalism & Mass Communications Professor Kevin Ripka, allowed users to interact with the cards, virtually flipping them over in their display cases.

Read more about the Museum at: www.baseballcardmuseum.org

Photos by David Celaya
Introducing MALT (Map and Aerial Locator Tool) Now Online at the Madden Library

The Library’s Map and Aerial Photography Collection contains over 150,000 maps and is the largest in the CSU system. It has worldwide coverage with a focus on California and the Central Valley. Of special interest are the aerial photographs, primarily of Fresno County, which date back to 1937 through 1999.

There is a strong demand for these photos from real estate developers, researchers and community users, but finding aerial photos or dates was difficult. It would require a visit to the Library—but only after allowing at least a day for personnel to research each flight’s index map, identify which photos covered a particular area and then retrieve the images.

The Library worked to modernize this process when MALT was developed, which is a web-based interface making it possible to quickly search for maps and aerial photos. Searches for a location are accomplished by clicking or drawing on a map or searching for an address, place name, parcel number or a coordinate.

Looking to the future, MALT can be adapted to any collection that’s referenced to polygons (or footprints) on a digital map. The Library’s aerial photos make up most of the current content, but we are expanding into collections around the CSU system and state with the goal of covering maps and aerial photos for all of California.

For now, most of the Fresno County aerial photos have been digitized and placed on MALT. A click is all it takes to get from search result to desired photo.

Give it a try at: http://malt.library.fresnostate.edu