The Library’s Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery was transformed into Wonderland with “Down the Rabbit Hole with Lewis Carroll and Leonard Weisgard,” a blockbuster exhibition from the Arne Nixon Center. Silhouettes on the entry doors depicting the “Mad Tea Party” characters usher visitors into the second floor gallery. The exhibition features unique materials on loan including letters written by Lewis Carroll; John Tenniel, the illustrator of the first published editions of the Alice books; and Alice Hargreaves, who inspired them. Also shown are Lewis Carroll’s cribbage board and a flutina owned by the real Alice. Original art showing Snoopy as the Cheshire Beagle by Charles Schultz and a parody of Edward Gorey’s alphabet book restyled with Alice characters add fun to the show. The exhibition also features illustrations by Arthur Rackham, Salvador Dali, and Max Ernst and original art by Leonard Weisgard for his 1949 Alice. Two spectacular bronze anamorphic sculptures by artist Karen Mortillaro convey the hallucinatory quality of some of Alice’s adventures.

The Pete P. Peters Ellipse Balcony on the third floor is filled with Weisgard’s original non-Alice art, including illustrations for The Little Island, which won the 1947 Caldecott award. Weisgard’s two daughters, who loaned the art, came from Denmark to attend the event.

The exhibition, suitable for all ages, will be on view until October 26. It will be open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday from 1–5 p.m.; and Sunday from 2–5 p.m. Other viewings may be arranged by calling the Arne Nixon Center at 559.278.8116.

In an effort to save resources, both financial and ecological, the university is encouraging all departments to move from paper to electronic formats. The FriendScript is available in electronic format at www.csufresno.edu/library/campaign/friends.php under “FriendScript (newsletter).” If you would like to receive electronic issues as they are published, send an e-mail message to kelliew@csufresno.edu, and please remember to notify us if your e-mail address changes. The paper version will remain available for those who prefer it.

Past newsletters have included the names of donors who gave money or materials. These names will now be published on the web site every academic year, but will no longer be included in the newsletter. Thanks to all our donors for bearing with us through these changes. Your gifts mean more than ever in a year of budget crises.
Dean’s message

The new school year opened with a bang in the Madden Library: September 2011 had our highest gate count of all time—over 165,000 patrons came through our doors! We are excited to think that 2011–2012 may break all previous records.

The Library is committed to its mission of promoting the academic success of our students, supporting our fine faculty in their teaching and research, and serving as a cultural center for the community. Our exhibition this summer, Carrousel Animals from the Freels Collection, brought in over 8,000 community visitors, many of them wide-eyed youngsters.

We are able to do so much for our patrons because of the hard work and dedication of Library faculty and staff. They continue to show entrepreneurial spirit and an unflagging commitment to service for our users.

The coming year poses great challenges. We are determined not to reduce the Library’s hours of opening, but this puts great pressure on all other areas of service. In late August we learned of an additional $144,000 reduction to our budget, putting the total cut for this year close to $400,000. We are exploring every imaginable scenario to meet these challenges. An example of creative thinking is to direct patrons to self-checkout of library materials, freeing up staff to pick up slack elsewhere.

One bright spot in this bleak scenario is the generosity of our donors. Your gifts help to keep Library faculty and staff focused optimistically on the future, to provide the means to remain entrepreneurial, and to explore the cutting edge of a rapidly changing profession.

This fall, your continued support provides us with the means to host a 250-participant conference of the International Board on Books for Young People, as well as to add new state-of-the-art multi-media equipment for design and music students. Thank you for making this possible.

Here’s hoping to see you, Friends, at our wonderful programs this coming year.

Sincerely,

Peter McDonald, Dean of Library Services

New resource gift from donors

Donor gifts support not just the Library’s book collections, but research materials as well. One example where donors have made a significant contribution to campus was in the purchase of the Web of Science database last year. Web of Science indexes the 10,000 most significant research journals worldwide in the sciences and social sciences. In addition to the articles in those journals, it also indexes all of the bibliographic citations in each article. By searching Web of Science, users find not only the newest articles relevant to their topic, but also all of the research in the past that contributed to that research. It serves as a time machine, bringing all relevant research published at any time in history back to the present so that new researchers can build upon that earlier work. Web of Science is critical to faculty and graduate students on campus because it allows them to get a comprehensive review of all other research relevant to their projects—and this database would not be available without the support of donors like you.
he Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children’s Literature is celebrating the gift of two new collections.

During the summer, internationally known authors and educators Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy donated over 2,000 books, mostly in the Spanish language, from five continents. The gift includes nearly 200 titles written by one or both authors, who have won many awards for their books and their humanitarian efforts.

Cuban born Alma Flor Ada’s first books were published in Peru, where she earned a Ph.D. Later she became a Radcliffe Scholar at Harvard and a Fulbright Research Scholar. She is Professor Emerita at the University of San Francisco, where she directed a doctoral program in multicultural education and founded an M.A. program in children’s literature.

Poet and playwright Isabel Campoy was born in Spain and has published more than 100 books for children in both English and Spanish. She obtained degrees in Spanish and England, and was a Fulbright Research Scholar at UCLA while completing her Ph.D. Many of her books explore Hispanic folklore and interpret Spanish culture to children around the world.

The Center also received nearly 500 LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning) themed books from two nationally known librarians. With this gift, the Center now holds the largest collection of LGBTQ books for young readers in any library in the U.S.

Michael Cart gave the original gift of several hundred books in this genre. Cart, who lives in Columbus, Indiana, is the former director of the Beverly Hills Public Library. He is well known as an author, editor, and leader in the American Library Association, where he received the Grolier Award for lifetime achievement in promoting literature for young people.

Cart’s gift inspired a second donation, of nearly 200 books, from his friend Kathleen Horning, director of the Cooperative Children’s Book Center at the University of Wisconsin—Madison and author of From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children’s Books. Horning is a past president of both the Association for Library Service to Children and the United States Board on Books for Young People and she has served on many book award committees, including the Newbery Committee.

The combined collection includes picture books, young adult novels, non-fiction, graphic novels, board books, anthologies, advance reading copies, and some bilingual and translated titles. All are comparatively recent; the first book for teens to depict LGBTQ issues was I’ll Get There, It Better Be Worth the Trip, published in 1969.

Many LGBTQ titles are not available in school or public libraries, or, like the picture book And Tango Makes Three, they face battles to be kept in circulation once they are acquired. The Arne Nixon Center is a research collection; its books do not check out and they are available to the community at large for use in the Madden Library.

At a time when bullying, suicides, and the issues of gay marriage and “Don’t ask, don’t tell” are affecting the LGBTQ youth community and mainstream society alike, these books offer hope and understanding that “it gets better.”

New Woodward Family Reading Room unveiled

In June, the Library hosted a special event to celebrate the newly redesigned and renovated O. James Woodward III Family Special Collections Reading Room. In attendance were the evening’s honorees, O. James Woodward III and Judith Knapp Woodward, and their children, Brent and Mark, and Mark’s wife, Christine (Brent’s wife, Erin, was not able to attend). Many of the Woodward Family’s friends and associates were also present to help them celebrate: not just the new, specially designed space, but also their multi-generation connection to the Library.

It began with Roy J. Woodward, O. James Woodward III’s grandfather, a member of one of Fresno’s most eminent pioneering families. He was an avid book collector who built an impressive personal collection of books on California history. After his death in 1940, the family donated his valuable collection to Fresno State’s library, where it became the foundation for the Special Collections department.

Roy Woodward’s son, O. J. Woodward II, was a real estate developer who continued the family tradition by generously supporting the Library’s Woodward collection.

O. James Woodward III, an attorney who is very active in community affairs and philanthropy, and his wife, Judith, are longtime, loyal supporters of the Henry Madden Library. They continued the Woodward family tradition by establishing an endowment in 1998 to support in perpetuity the Roy J. Woodward Memorial Library of Californiana in the Special Collections Research Center at the Henry Madden Library.

In 2001, O. James Woodward III and Judith Woodward funded the purchase of the Library’s one-millionth volume. In 2009, they made a generous gift to the Special Collections Research Center. At the recent event, a plaque commemorating the O. James Woodward III family’s unwavering dedication and ongoing generosity was formally unveiled.
Friends Programs for 2011 • 2012
Highlighting the Madden Library’s Collections

2011
Friday, November 4, 6:00 p.m.
Dan Pessano, founder and managing director of Fresno’s Good Company Players, presents “The Musical: Where are We Going, Where Have We Been?—A Director’s Memoir.” His talk complements the Library’s Music & Media collection—one of the best in the CSU system.

2012
Friday, January 20, 6:00 p.m.
A look at the Library’s map collection: Professor of Geography C. K. Leung will present “Maps: Historical Evolution and Contemporary Developments,” which include geographic information systems (GIS) and Google Earth.

Friday March 23, 6:00 p.m.
“An Overview of the State of Education in Fresno County,” a panel discussion with Superintendents Larry Powell and Michael Hanson, as well as Sanger’s award-winning superintendent, Marc Johnson. This program will highlight the Library’s Teacher Resource Center.

Friday, May 4, 6:00 p.m.
Dean of Library Services, Peter McDonald, will focus on the Library’s poetry collection with “Can Poetry Save the World? The Power of Eloquent Language to Transform our Planet.”