Sandy Stubblefield, Library’s Top Dog

The Madden Library has named Sandy Speers Stubblefield its Top Dog for 2013. Top Dog awards recognize individuals who have distinguished themselves in service or career achievements since leaving campus. Stubblefield was one of fourteen award winners who were honored at a gala in the Save Mart Center in October.

Known for her elegant hats, Stubblefield stands out also for her kindness, poise, and gracious manner. She came to Fresno State from Arizona as Activities Advisor and later worked with Tokalon, the premier women’s organization on campus. Hoping to become the dean of women, she enrolled in the graduate psychology program, but her plans were changed by a proposal from her now husband of 46 years, Dennis Stubblefield, and the birth of their son and daughter.

Stubblefield became a volunteer for Fresno State, serving seven years on the board of The Friends of the Madden Library, including two terms as president. A children’s book collector who studied under Professor Arne Nixon, she was also a founding member of the board of the Arne Nixon Center Advocates, and supports many other Fresno State activities, including the Panhellenic Alumnae Association.

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Tribute to Dr. Peter Mehas

Dr. Peter G. Mehas (1939-2013) passed away suddenly on September 27. An unassuming, self-effacing person, he was known simply as “Pete” to many despite an illustrious career and countless accolades. He had an amazing capacity to connect with people on all levels because he truly cared, not just about the issues, but for the people as individuals: that warmth and concern came through with everyone he met.

The Madden Library owes a huge debt to Dr. Mehas for being such an enthusiastic, committed, and effective advocate for our Leon S. Peters Award and Legacy Project (along with Dr. Bud Richter, The Honorable Robert Oliver, Dr. Peter Peters, and Kenneth Peters). Together they raised $50,000 and established the Leon S. Peters Endowment at the Madden Library in 2010. The Endowment funds the inclusion of an interview with each year’s Leon S. Peters Award recipient in the Leon S. Peters collection in the Library’s Special Collections Research Center, and helps to support the Peters collection in perpetuity.

It is fitting that Dr. Mehas himself was the 2012 Leon S. Peters Award winner. Since 1984, the Leon S. Peters Award has been presented annually to a Central Valley business leader whose work exemplifies the

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Top Dog

In 1995 the Stubblefields’ son, Brett, died by suicide. After this tragic event, the Stubblefields joined the Fresno Survivors of Suicide Loss. Sandy co-founded the organization’s newsletter and has spoken at its conferences. She and her husband speak at schools, organizations, and churches about depression and suicide. Their work has won honors from groups like Rotary International.

A dancer since childhood, Stubblefield joined the New Wrinkles performance troop when she turned fifty-five, tapping her toes with the cast for eight years. No longer in the show, she continues tap lessons twice a week.

Both Stubblefields are accomplished tennis players. This interest led them to open their home to international students coming to America to study and play tennis. They remain close to many of the seventeen young people who have lived with them.

For her service and achievements, the Madden Library thanks and honors Sandy Speers Stubblefield.

The Flight of the Gossamer Condor


In 1959 Henry Kremer, a British industrialist, offered a $77,000 prize to the first group to fly a human-powered aircraft according to criteria he established. After 17 years, the prize was claimed by aerodynamicist Dr. Paul B. MacCready and Dr. Peter B. S. Lissamen of AeroVironment, Inc., who designed the Gossamer Condor, for a flight near Shafter, in the Central Valley. The aircraft is on permanent display at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

Ben Shedd is an Academy Visiting Artist funded by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. A University of Southern California graduate, he shares a Peabody Award for the second season of the PBS science series Nova. He worked on the series from 1972-1976. Since 1985, he has directed and produced giant screen IMAX-type science films, including Seasons and Tropical Rainforest.

Bryan Allen, a Tulare native, was the cyclist and hang glider enthusiast who pedaled the Gossamer Condor to success on its 223rd flight, which lasted seven minutes and twenty-seven seconds. He later piloted a second award-winning flight, powering the Gossamer Albatross across the English Channel in two hours and forty-nine minutes.

Of his historic feats, Allen observed, “Humankind dreamed of flying under [its] own power for millennia; once we found out what was actually necessary, we realized that achievable dreams do not necessarily translate into everyday realities.”
Mehas

values, ethics, and character of Leon S. Peters. Dr. Mehas took it upon himself to interview every Leon S. Peters awardee; he then gave all the recorded interviews to the Library so they could be made available online. These interviews, including the one with Dr. Mehas, are accessible at http://ecollections.lib.csufresno.edu/specialcollections/collections/leon_s_peters_collection.php.

The son of Greek immigrants, Dr. Mehas was a self-made man who attended Fresno schools and obtained degrees from Fresno State (B.A.), UCLA (M.A.), and USC (Ph.D.). He exemplified the best traits of an educator, community leader, and philanthropist. His legacy lives on through the life he led and the example he left for all of us.

ValleyFirsts! reception

The reception for the opening of the Library’s ValleyFirsts! exhibition on September 13 was attended by more than 250 guests. Included were representatives of the many corporations, businesses, and groups that sponsored the show, including Table Mountain Rancheria, Westlands Water District, J. D. Heiskell Co., Sun-Maid, McDonald’s®, executives of The Fresno Bee, and the Sikh Council of Central California. Representatives from the many museums, libraries, and historical societies that lent artifacts to the exhibition were also present. Curators Jill Moffatt and Bill Secrest, Jr., were honored for creating an exhibition that has resulted in numerous stories on television and radio stations, in newspapers, on social media, and in Internet publications. The exhibition ran throughout the fall semester.

Library Dean Peter McDonald introduced a true “Valley First”: Dr. Joseph I. Castro, the new president of California State University, Fresno, and the first Valley native and Latino to hold the position. President Castro said he keeps his lunch hours free so he can walk around the campus. In doing so, he has noted a vibrant use of the Library, which he called “a jewel.”

Welcome, new librarians!

The Madden Library welcomed two librarians this fall. Chris Langer, Public Services Librarian, has an educational background in history, having obtained both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in the subject from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, in addition to his master’s degree in library and information science. Before joining Fresno State, Langer worked at Davidson College in North Carolina. He enjoys watching the Green Bay Packers, of which he is a partial owner, and doing anything outdoors. He is looking forward to working with the Fresno State community and to seeing all that California has to offer.

David Drexler is the Library’s new Digital Initiatives Librarian and will work on “Waterways” and other projects, as well as embedding the Library into online courses. He received his MLS from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and previously worked as the Systems Librarian at Eastern Oregon University. Drexler is also a composer of new concert music, which has been performed around the world. In his spare time, he is an amateur photographer. He looks forward to exploring natural wonders in the Sierra Nevada and around California.

Year-end gift

Please consider a year-end gift to the Madden Library to support our digital device loan program. We lend iPads, iPad minis, Android tablets, laptops, and digital cameras free of charge to Fresno State students to use in projects and course work. Help us to maintain and to expand this popular program by sending your check (made out to Fresno State Foundation) to:

Fresno State
Madden Library Development
5200 N. Barton Ave. ML34
Fresno CA 93740-8014

or make a credit card gift online at www.fresnostate.edu/advancement/giving/givemoney.html.

(Indicate in the note line that you want your gift to go the Madden Library digital device loan program.)
Celebrate the Clovis Rodeo Centennial
with the Friends of the Madden Library

Friday, February 7, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Members of the all volunteer, not-for-profit, Clovis Rodeo Association will be joined by rodeo legend and stock contractor John Gowney to talk about the history of the Clovis Rodeo. The owner of the legendary, world-champion bucking bull Red Rock, Gowney is credited with elevating the sport of rodeo to new heights when he paired the equally legendary world-champion cowboy Lane Frost against Red Rock in the Challenge of Champions in 1988.

During the reception, tour the new exhibition of the Madden Library’s Thomas J. Ebert American Frontier Collection and see our Remington bronzes, donated in 1997 by Professor Emeritus John Crosby.