



PRIVATE GIFTS

create new
possibilities

inside the
**JORDAN
RESEARCH
CENTER**

by Kathleen R. Schock

Cary Edmondson

How do microorganisms impact food processing?

What role can sensors and robotics play in solving real-world agricultural problems?

Can scientists develop more accurate methods to evaluate wine traits?

These are the kinds of questions the Jordan Research Center is designed to explore. Set to open late 2015, this 30,000-square-foot research facility at Barstow and Woodrow avenues will be a hub for collaboration and innovation in agriculture, engineering, science and math.

A \$29.4 million gift from the Jordan family to the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology in 2009 made the facility possible. Now, industry partners and private supporters who share in the Jordan family's vision are coming forward to enrich the research possibilities.

Three gifts to establish endowments that will bolster research on food production, wine making and robotics were announced by University President Joseph I. Castro at the June groundbreaking ceremony, which marked the start of construction.

DR. HARRY B. MOORDIGIAN JR. LABORATORY

Fresno State alumnus and longtime supporter Dr. Harry B. Moordigian Jr. established a \$200,000 endowment to support interdisciplinary research.

The gift from Moordigian will be used to enhance the Jordan Research Center's microbiology laboratory. This space, which will be named for Moordigian, will be used by students and faculty to research microorganisms in food processing and wine production.

“Understanding the role microorganisms play in winemaking and food processing would enhance safety and quality of the final product,” Moordigian says.

“As an alumnus, I would love to see my University at the forefront in this area of research.”

Moordigian, a retired dentist, has actively supported Fresno State since the 1970s, when he joined the Bulldog Foundation. Since then, Moordigian's contributions have supported the Armenian Studies Department, the Fresno Family Counseling Center and the athletics program. In 2007 he honored his parents, Harry and Nevert Moordigian, by establishing an endowment to support students in the Department of Viticulture and Enology. He continues to grow this scholarship, which now stands at nearly \$250,000.

"Dr. Moordigian's dedication to Fresno State will not only have a lasting impact on our students, but will also help advance research and knowledge throughout the agricultural industry," says Dr. Charles Boyer, dean of the Jordan College.



OLAM SPICES AND VEGETABLE LABORATORY

Global agribusiness leader Olam Spices and Vegetable Ingredients (SVI) established a \$200,000 endowment with the Jordan College to bolster interdisciplinary research of food and wine.

The gift from Olam SVI will enrich the sensory evaluation, tasting and prep laboratory inside the Jordan Research Center. This space, which will be named in honor of the company, will allow scientists and panelists the ability to develop sensors and evaluate food and wine traits in a controlled environment.

"We're thrilled to be celebrating the groundbreaking of the Jordan Research Center and the new sensory lab, which will produce the next generation of food technologists and scientists right here in Fresno," says Dave Watkins, Olam's senior vice president for agricultural operations.

"Olam is committed to working with local universities like Fresno State to cultivate new recruits and keep great talent in the San Joaquin Valley. Investing in local education and research is an invaluable way to achieve this."



Top: Dr. James Kennedy, Dr. Harry B. Moordigian Jr. and Mary Castro take in the Jordan Research Center groundbreaking ceremony.

Above: Olam SVI representatives celebrate their company's \$200,000 endowment.

Below: Earl and Beverly Knobloch established an endowment to support robotic research.

Bottom: Officials break ground on the Jordan Research Center.

EARL AND BEVERLY KNOBLOCH LABORATORY

Fresno State alumni and longtime university supporters Earl and Beverly Knobloch established an endowment with the Jordan College to support robotic research.

"The research and innovation that will be conducted in this space will have wide-ranging impact throughout the Central Valley and the world," Boyer says. "We are so grateful to the Knoblochs for their dedication to agricultural education and research."

"Agriculture is the heart and soul of the San Joaquin Valley, and with the establishment of the research center, other disciplines such as engineering, science and math, as well as business, can work together to make agriculture a shining star," Beverly Knobloch says.

