

October 2015

Viticulture and Enology FAQs About Recent Changes and Opportunities Before Us
In response to two recent faculty vacancies in the Department of Viticulture & Enology

Question: Who do I go to when I have questions or concerns that I would normally bring to the Department Chair?

Answer: Dr. Kathie Reid-Bevington in the Jordan College Dean's Office (AG 102; kreid@csufresno.edu; 278-2061)

This semester, please see Dr. Kathie Reid-Bevington, Interim Associate Dean. Next semester, there will be an Interim Chair in the Department, but that appointment has not yet been formalized. The Dean's Office has been working on that with the faculty in the Department of Viticulture and Enology. The Provost has to approve and make the final appointment, and that process is underway. Please realize that it is typical professional courtesy, not to mention professionally ethical, to wait to announce important positions like this until all is formalized.

Question: Who do I go to with questions or concerns I would normally bring to the Director of the Viticulture and Enology Research Center (VERC) since Dr. Kennedy is gone?

Answer: Dr. Mickey Paggi in the Institute for Food and Agriculture (mpaggi@csufresno.edu; 278-4405)

If you have questions or concerns about the research being conducted in the Department or in VERC, please direct them to Dr. Mickey Paggi. Dr. Paggi is the Associate Dean for Research for the Jordan College, and is also the Director of the Institute for Food and Agriculture. Interim Dean Witte has appointed him Interim Director of VERC, and he is overseeing research activities.

Question: When will we get the two new faculty that will be hired to replace Dr. Kennedy and Dr. Kurtural?

Answer: As soon as is possible under University policy.

While it is not unheard of for a Chair and/or faculty member to leave during the semester, it is unusual. University hiring procedures – which are dictated by faculty contract – are not set up to allow immediate hiring of any faculty (Department Chairs are also faculty), even when that happens at the end of the academic year, as it usually does.

As indicated in the email directed to all VE students, we are very dedicated to the VE programs, and can assure you that two permanent faculty members – a Department Chair and a professor – will be hired as soon as is possible. We cannot, however, guarantee exactly when that will be, but assure you that the discussions and processes necessary to make that happen have begun.

Question: Will the recent departures of Dr. Kennedy and Dr. Kurtural hurt the industry's perception of the quality and value of our degrees?

Answer: We have had no indication from industry that it will; in fact, many industry leaders have reaffirmed their support for and confidence in our programs.

As you likely know, the Department of Viticulture and Enology has a very active and dedicated advisory board as well as alumni and supporters that include representatives from prestigious companies and organizations across the viticulture and enology industries. Relationships with industry have been nurtured over many years, and President Joseph Castro and Interim Dean Sandra Witte have been in close contact with important and influential industry leaders since Dr.'s Kennedy and Kurtural announced their departures. Those leaders have assured Dr.'s Castro and Witte that they are as committed as ever to maintaining and supporting the quality of the academic and research programs in the Department and VERC, and are confident that the programs will continue to grow and prosper. They have stressed that their highest priority is the quality academic experience of all of our students, which is right in line with the priority of staff, faculty, and administration at the Department, College, and University level.

Question: I am an undergraduate student, and I usually see Dr. Kennedy or Dr. Kurtural for advising. Who do I go to now?

Answer: Gaby Encinas in the Jordan College Advising and Career Development Center (AG 110; gencinas@csufresno.edu; 278-4013)

Long before Dr.'s Kennedy and Kurtural announced they were leaving, we were in the process of creating the Jordan College Advising and Career Development Center. There will be a Grand Opening of the center in Spring 2016, and we have hired three professional Academic Advisors and a Coordinator of Internships and Professional Experiences who are housed there to serve students in all seven of the Jordan College departments.

One of the advisors, Gaby Encinas, has already been trained by Dr.'s Thornton, Van Zyl, and Letaief to work with Viticulture and Enology students. She has worked on campus as an academic advisor for 9 years and earned her Chemistry degree at Fresno State. She is excited to work with you, and we're confident she will be able to help you be successful as you progress toward your degree.

Question: I am currently enrolled in VIT 194 or ENO 194 which Dr. Kurtural was teaching. Now that he is gone, who do I talk to about my remaining requirements for the internship?

Answer: Dr. Kathie Reid-Bevington in the Jordan College Dean's Office (AG 102; kreid@csufresno.edu; 278-2061)

Those students enrolled in interships this semester will (if you haven't already) receive an email from Dr. Reid-Bevington, asking that you call the Dean's Office to set an appointment with her to discuss your remaining requirements. Given that students do individual internships unique to

their career goals, she will work with each of you to determine what still needs to be completed in order for you to succeed in the course.

Question: I want to do an internship in the future. Dr. Kurtural was the Internship Coordinator, so who do I see now about that?

Answer: Mary Willis in the Jordan College Advising and Career Development Center (AG 110; mwillis@csufresno.edu; 278-4207)

Mary Willis was hired in January as our Coordinator of Internships and Professional Experiences, and has been helping facilitate internships for students across the Jordan College. She had been in contact with Dr. Kurtural before he left to begin to assist him with the significant work load required of arranging and overseeing internships. If you want to discuss the possibility of doing an internship, please see Mary for further information.

Question: I am currently enrolled in VIT 101 which was taught by Dr. Kurtural. Who will take over that course?

Answer: Andrew Beebe, a graduate student in the Master's Program in Viticulture and Enology, is now the instructor of record.

As a student in that course, if you haven't already, you will receive an email from Interim Associate Dean Kathie Reid-Bevington explaining this transition. Before his departure, Dr. Kurtural indicated he was confident that Mr. Beebe would do a fine job teaching the course, as he has been overseeing lab work already. It is not uncommon for graduate students to act as Teaching Assistants or Associates (TAs), and teach undergraduate courses while being mentored by graduate faculty. Dr. Sonet Van Zyl and Dr. John Bushoven are both mentoring Mr. Beebe as he takes over the course, and if you have questions or concerns that Mr. Beebe has been unable to answer, please see one of them.



Department of Viticulture and Enology
2360 E. Barstow Avenue MS VR89, Fresno, CA 93740-8003
559 278-2089

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