

November 3, 2014

Greetings from the faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Viticulture and Enology!

Each fall it has become an annual tradition for me to reach out to our friends and supporters to share some of our highlights and encourage everyone to contribute to our Viticulture and Enology Associates Campaign. This Campaign is a critical component of our department's financial well-being and was created so that we can maintain our position as a global leader in grape and wine education and research. Simply put, the Associates Campaign helps us fill the gap that exists between the funding that the state of California is able to provide the Department of Viticulture and Enology and the quality of instruction and research that our industry has grown to expect.

Our student, faculty and staff numbers have grown significantly since I started in 2010 and Associates Campaign funds have enabled us to maintain our facilities and enhance instruction to our students during this time. For the faculty and staff, I am happy to report that our level of commitment to having a positive impact on our students is stronger than ever. A few points of success from this past year:

- In the past four years, our program has grown by over 40% to over 170 students.
- For the first time in our history, the number of declared viticulture students has exceeded 50.
- 100% of our students were successfully employed upon graduation.
- Our graduate continues to grow with new research findings presented and published by our students.
- The establishment of a raisin grape block will significantly increase the impact of our viticulture program.
- Our chemistry research capabilities expanded significantly with the renovation of one of our laboratories.
- This past year our Viticulture Club sold out their annual Fall Harvest BBQ, with 450 tickets sold (this year's event will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup>, at Wolf Lakes Park in Sanger).

Our Viticulture Club and Enology Society have also contributed greatly to the future of our program by generating much needed financial support from club activities. As an educator, I have been particularly touched by our students because their sense that they have that they have a role to play in the future health of their program!

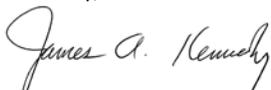
These success stories would simply not be possible without the generous contributions to our Associates Campaign. The State of California cannot afford to support the level of instruction and commitment that we give to our students. Below are some of the activities that were made possible through your generous donations last year:

- We successfully conducted a resume writing workshop and the career and internship fair.
- We updated our microbiology and wine chemistry laboratories this past year. This included the purchase of much needed microscopes, essential glassware, and maintaining our laboratory water system.
- At least ten field trips to our industry partners took place.
- Purchased and presented awards at our annual graduation dinner.
- Provided a \$500 scholarship for winning FFA vine-pruning contestant (now a Fresno State Viticulture student).
- Our department newsletter *The Catch Wire* has become our vehicle for disseminating our successes to you.

There are so many additional activities and success stories to report, far too many for this short letter. If you are not receiving our newsletter *The Catch Wire*, I encourage you to see the latest issue through the department's website ([www.fresnostate.edu/icast/ve](http://www.fresnostate.edu/icast/ve)).

As I look into the year ahead I continue to see tremendous opportunity to increase the impact of what we do. We are only limited by the support that we receive from individuals like you. To contribute to the Viticulture and Enology Associates Campaign in support of our program, please fill out the attached form and return it to us with your contribution. This information is also available online. Please remember that your contribution is tax deductible to the extent provided by Federal, State and Local Law. On behalf of all of us in the Department of Viticulture and Enology at Fresno State, we are grateful for your continued support of our teaching and research programs.

Sincerely,



Dr. James A. Kennedy, Chair

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