L.D. Davis Professorship in Pomology
Dr. Thomas Gradziel, Professor
Plant Sciences
plantsciences.ucdavis.edu • tmgradziel@ucdavis.edu

ENDOWMENT PURPOSE
The L. D. Davis Peach Professorship was established in 1993 by the California Cling Peach Advisory Board. The purpose of the Professorship is to provide a permanent source of funding for research that will enhance, accelerate and ensure the continuing development of new and improved canning peaches, processing peach, and peach-like varieties primarily adapted to the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys of California. Goals include using plant hybridization and genetic manipulation to provide the greatest varietal improvement, gain, and benefit to the California peach industry at the least cost and shortest time.

RESEARCH
My research focuses on the genetic improvement of processing peach with the ultimate goal of developing new varieties for California. The support of this fund has helped primarily in my ability to maintain field facilities in light of ongoing University cutbacks.

OUTREACH
In 2014-2015 I was engaged in over 40 outreach activities which primarily involved grower site visits, and presentations to growers or grower groups (conferences, etc.). Since the endowment is used primarily for research, the developed data helps provide updated information for grower presentations as well as improved varieties for grower use.

NEW AND UNIQUE ENDOWMENT USE
The new processing peach variety 'Kader' has been released for the 'Dixon' harvest period. UCD selection Early#5, which ripens in the 'Andross' period, is being advanced to large scale regional grower testing.

SAVE THE DATE
College Celebration
Friday
OCTOBER
2
2015
5:30-8:30 p.m.
Pavilion
UC Davis
More details to follow soon. We hope you will be able to join us.
THANKS

I wish to thank the California processing peach industry for this endowment and their continued research support. The breeding continuity made possible by these funds has allowed us to leverage additional state and federal resources which have made our program a world leader for variety improvement for this crop.