**Louis P. Martini Endowed Chair in Viticulture**

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**ENDOWMENT PURPOSE**

The Louis P. Martini Endowment was established in 1989 as a research fund, with income being reinvested until 1993, the year Mr. Martini turned 75. While the research could be broad, the needs and interests of the wine industry were to be considered when selecting projects to be funded by the endowment. By direction of the family, and after several additional gifts were made following Martini’s passing in fall 1998, the endowment was converted to a faculty chair.

**RESEARCH**

As in past years, funds from the Louis P. Martini Endowed Chair have been used to supplement research funding for my grape breeding program. Over the last six years the Martini funds have allowed collection trips all over the southwestern United States. That established about 1,000 DNA samples and a living repository of over 500 accessions of *Vitis* species. Many of these collections have been tested for resistance to PD and salt resistance, and a large percentage has strong resistance to both. Some also resist *Xiphinema index* the dagger nematode vector of fanleaf virus, and others promise to be very drought resistant.

**TEACHING**

I teach a two quarter course in the Department of Viticulture and Enology entitled VEN 101A & 101B Viticultural Practices. The Fall quarter of this course teaches the students to identify and learn the characteristics of 70 wine, table, raisin and rootstock cultivars. The Winter quarter focuses on pruning and propagation, as well as the importance of the clean stock program. These classes have a 1.5 hr lecture and a 3.5 hr lab. The lab portion allows hands-on instruction in the field and ample opportunity for individual and small group teaching.
I also coordinate the Spring quarter of the Horticulture and Agronomy Graduate Group core course - Horticulture and Agronomy Practices. My role in the course, in addition to coordinating instructors, is stimulating discussion during the course and coordinating and advising student led presentations and writing projects.

**STUDENTS**

The Martini Chair funds are helping to support Daniel Papp, a Hungarian student who is enrolled in the University of Budapest but completing his PhD research in my lab. He is making excellent progress examining a novel form of powdery mildew resistance in *Vitis piasezkii* from China. We are using this very strong source of resistance to hybridize with PD resistant selections and other powdery mildew resistant selections we have created from other genetic backgrounds. Daniel’s work will allow us to produce durably resistant winegrapes with multiple forms of resistance.

In addition to the support of Daniel Papp, the Martini funds have also greatly helped Claire Heinitz with her project collecting and evaluating salt resistance and taxonomic/genetic relationships among the southwestern *Vitis* species. The endowment funds will also be used to send the following students and post-docs to the American Society of Enology and Viticulture (ASEV) National Meeting in Portland, OR:

Dr. Kevin Fort - studying salt and drought tolerance in grape rootstocks and species

Jake Uretsky - studying the genetics and mechanisms of drought resistance in southwestern species focusing on *V. berlandieri*

Ines Hugalde - studying the genetics of a number of rootstock traits in our 101-14 Mgt x 110R mapping population

**OUTREACH**

In the past year, the Martini funds have been used to support the following:

1. I attended the International Grape Breeding and Genetics Symposium in Beijing last July and used the Martini funds to pay for airline tickets. The funds also supported travel for my lab to Austin, TX for the 2014 ASEV meeting.

2. Claire Heinitz and I have made many trips over the past 5 years collecting wild grape species and finished this group of trips with a trip to Oklahoma and Kansas to collect the drought and salt resistant species *V. acerifolia* and *V. doaniana*. These collections were made with the Martini Chair funds and the 2-acre plot these plants now reside in was also paid for by Martini Chair funds.

3. I continue to use the Martini funds to support the travel costs of my extension and outreach activities, which include talks to grower groups and meetings, and farm calls. I make about 20 such trips per year across the state from Bakersfield and Santa Maria to the Foothills and North Coast.

4. We also used the Martini funds to establish a new 5-acre vineyard to expand our PD and powdery mildew resistant winegrape breeding program.

**OTHER UPDATES**

My tenure as Martini Chair comes to a close this Spring and I have been appointed as Chair of the Search Committee for the next Martini Chair.
We will begin interviews for a new Extension Specialist to fill Jim Wolpert’s position in June. This position will bring new life to the Oakville Research Station. I am also hoping that we get permission to hire a new physiologist/agricultural engineer to work on vineyard mechanization and automation. This position will be housed at the Kearney Ag Station, but will have research duties across the state and with wine, table and raisin grapes.

THANKS

Dear Elizabeth, Mike and Carolyn –

Thanks so much! My appointment as the Louis P. Martini Endowed Chair in Viticulture is now over and it has been a great honor to serve in this role over the past 15 years. These funds have been an immeasurable help to my breeding program and have supported students, collection trips, and equipment purchases that were not budgeted on my research grants.

Over the past year these funds have been primarily directed to supporting my continuing efforts to breed high quality powdery mildew resistant winegrapes. The Martini funds have helped in all phases of my breeding program and have been particularly useful in funding extra and unexpected costs associated with my breeding blocks (contact labor, supplies, equipment). I was glad that we could coordinate a Martini/Gallo tasting of my PD resistant winegrape selections last year and hope we can do it again this year. I also look forward to having you taste wines from my advanced powdery mildew resistant selections.

Best wishes,

Andy