L. D. Davis Endowed Professorship in Pomology

Dr. Thomas Gradziel
Professor
Plant Sciences

RESEARCH
The L. D. Davis endowment has provided a long-term stream of funding as well as a long-term consistency of research focus consistent with the endowment’s intent.

TEACHING
I teach several graduate and undergraduate courses on agricultural practices and perspectives. Because these are applied sciences and because new information technologies has made information (in terms of facts and trends) readily available, a major emphasis of my teaching is engaging of students in real-world problem solving and hands-on experiences.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND/OR DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES
The emphasis of the endowment funding on applied plant breeding was a positive consideration for the department’s development of a Plant Breeding Institute and the current high level recruitment of a lead scientist for this Institute.

ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY THIS FUND
- Outreach to growers and processors.
- Travel to regional conferences.
- Travel to in-field grower presentations.
- Foundation funding for attracting state and federal grants.

THANKS
Through the long-term research initiated and supported by this funding, considerable knowledge has been gained and communicated to the endowment sponsors and, perhaps more importantly, new crop cultivars have been developed and are continuing to be developed to meet the dramatically changing industry and consumer needs.

Sincerely,

Mary Delany
Interim Dean

Endowed chairs and professorships are distinctions awarded to faculty or Cooperative Extension specialists in recognition of past and potential contributions to the individual’s academic and research discipline. These endowments provide funding to support teaching, research and outreach responsibilities. They also give UC Davis greater impact as a world-class university.

With these positions, we are able to attract and retain the brightest teachers and researchers, who contribute to the scholarly activity and effective functioning of their academic units through teaching, seminars, or other intellectual pursuits that benefit students and external stakeholders.

These important faculty positions, like the L. D. Davis Endowed Professorship in Pomology, are made possible only by the generosity of donors who believe strongly in the need to support an area of study that will benefit society.

I hope you will save the date and join us at our Donor Recognition Event and 25th Annual College Celebration on Friday, October 11, 2013 so we may thank you in person.