Endowed Chair & Professorship Report
2012-2013

Daniel B. DeLoach Endowed Chair in Agricultural Economics
Dr. Jeffrey Williams
Professor
Agricultural and Resource Economics

RESEARCH
The endowed chair is in "transportation economics." I took advantage of these funds to work on California's smog check program, funding several students. The work, which continues, is more policy-oriented than publication-oriented. For this work, I have received the Campus' Public Service Award.

TEACHING
The courses I teach are:
ARE 138, International Commodity Markets
ARE 139, Futures and Options Markets
ARE 233, Agricultural Policy Analysis
ARE 254, Dynamic Optimization (every now and then)
Research I pursued because of the Endowed Chair has appeared in several lectures, especially in ARE 138.

STUDENT TRAINING
The donor gave other funds to CA&ES that made it clear his main interest was in student support. I have followed that wish as much as possible. In other words, this year, as in earlier years, the funds have been almost entirely for supporting Ph.D. students. (The funds support 1.5 at most.) This year one student finished her dissertation. Jennifer Lee worked on transportation congestion in the LA area, using 4 million images of license plates on entrance ramps of freeways. While she looks for a job in the area, I am supporting her further as a post-doc. Starting this Winter Quarter, a second-year Ph.D. student, Jehan Sparks, has begun working as a Research Assistant, with the hope that she will see a dissertation topic in the large data sets I have.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND/OR DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES
I plan to use the funds in the same way next year, namely supporting graduate students.

ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY THIS FUND
My research is computer-intensive. I buy a top-end computer every 2-3 years, with the endowment. Now and then I attend a conference with those funds (but I usually invoke my departmental core account). Most of the expenditures are towards graduate support.

THANKS
The donor, who was a member of ARE, is deceased.

The Impact of Philanthropy

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 Daniel B. DeLoach Endowed Chair in Agricultural Economics, 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.

Sincerely,
Mary Delany
Interim Dean