ENDOWMENT PURPOSE
The John and Joan Fiddyment Endowed Chair in Agriculture was established in 1998 by John and Joan Fiddyment. The Purpose of the gift was to provide a permanent source of funding to endow a chair in the general area of research, teaching and outreach in agriculture. Given that the rate of change and innovation in agriculture are occurring so rapidly, the specific designation of the Fiddyment Chair is left to the discretion of the dean and should evolve as challenges facing agriculture evolves.

RESEARCH
My research is in avian development and genetics, with a focus on the chicken, because of its significance in agriculture (source of protein via meat and eggs) and in health (model for human diseases). Our studies employ the tools of molecular, cellular and organismal biology. We engage in genetic mapping of single gene mutations affecting development and growth. We also study a herpesvirus that is an important disease impacting the commercial industry as well as backyard flocks. Fiddyment endowment funding was used in upgrading much needed equipment, making lab improvements, supporting students and bringing a world-renowned avian scientist to visit the lab.

TEACHING
The Fiddyment endowment was essential in supporting graduate students in genetics (stipend/salary). Also, the funds were used to support costs of a student senior-authored publication, bringing a renowned scientist to visit the lab and interact with the students, upgrading our cytogenetic equipment and software used for student projects, and improvements to a lab door, making student work flow more efficient and safe.

OUTREACH
I attended the Plant and Animal Genome meeting which includes a workshop attended by numerous industry members to update and converse with them about the latest genome improvement efforts.
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
My plans for use of the Fiddyment endowment include supporting a student to attend a national and international meeting.

SPECIAL ENDOWMENT USE
The Fiddyment provides an enormous opportunity for my students to be supported both for their stipends as well as their laboratory research. Next year I am hoping to be able to use the funds to support a local workshop of avian scientists in addition to using the funds to support my students.

THANKS
I cannot adequately express the degree of the enormous benefit the Fiddyment endowed chair resources have been to me professionally and to my students. I am grateful for the resources and also for the honor. I am so very proud to have an association not only with the CA-historic Fiddyment name but also with a family who have been so generous to our college and campus. The John and Joan Fiddyment Endowed Chair in Agriculture is a legacy and I am honored to be its inaugural chair. My students and I thank the family.