L.D. Davis Professorship in Pomology

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
The endowment was used for the applied breeding of new processing peach cultivars and rootstocks.

TEACHING
The endowment encouraged a research emphasis on applied science which inherently involved extension component with growers, processors farm advisors and consumers. This real-world experience improved my capability as a effective teacher in my various classes. The students clearly appreciated access to real-world data and experiences. Several students were motivated to pursue additional work experiences with my program either as interns or as paid workers.

STUDENTS
Jonathan Fresnedo; interest in applied breeding; graduate researcher pursuing effective molecular markers to improve peach breeding.

Shawn Overstreet; interest and cropping efficiency consumer preference; graduate researcher pursuing improved cropping methods for food production.

Katie Fyhrie; interest in improved tree cropping systems; undergraduate student currently involved in fruit orchard production.
OUTREACH
My research involves the development of new processing peach cultivars meeting
the demands of the California industry. To fully appreciate those needs as well as
understand both the positive and negative aspects of UCD develop cultivars, I
routinely engage with growers, processors and consumers. This engagement is
particularly meaningful as most processing peach production is by California family
farms with a long tradition of quality in peach production.

NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Multiple publications have been generated by this research and these are
summarized for donors in our annual reports. The achievements we are most proud
of have been the recent release of the early season processing peach
cultivars Kader and Vilmos.

FUTURE USE
Advanced breeding lines are showing good promise towards achieving the goals of
California processing peach production using less labor. Specific achievements
include the development of tree architectures as well as fruit ripening dynamics
facilitating mechanical harvest.

THANKS
The LD Davis endowment has allowed my program to focus on applied breeding
and peach genetic improvement. Industry support has allowed us to develop
advanced and enriched germplasm which, in turn, has allowed us to successfully
compete for extensive outside funding, such as the RosBreed SCRI grant. This long-
term ‘win-win’ opportunity has only been possible because of the similarly long-term
support from the industry, and for this I am very grateful.