

Facilitating research and outreach in Viticulture and Enology locally and beyond

*Notes from the Director*

We are coming close to the end of the 2022/2023 academic year. We continued to provide administrative, research, and outreach service and support to the affiliated researchers at VERC. We updated our website to reflect the entirety of our program. The fee for service wine analytical lab is fully functional and available to the affiliated researchers. VERC staff attended various events, including the 2023 Unified Wine and Grape Symposium, and will be attending the 2023 American Society of Enology and Viticulture (ASEV) meeting in June. We organized a lunch network meeting for our affiliated researchers and the research sub-committee of our Industry Advisory Board to discuss how VERC could meet its mission and goals and serve the affiliated researchers. The search for the new Director of VERC is ongoing. Full details of our activities are available in this newsletter. I wish everyone a safe and productive summer.

Anil Shrestha  
Interim Director, VERC.

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*Announcements*

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**Updated Website**

VERC's new website is now live.  
Please click on the link below or scan the QR code to visit the website

<https://jcast.fresnostate.edu/verc/index.html>.



**SCAN ME**

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## Past Events

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**Unified-** Fresno State was happy to be at Unified again this year. In addition to our booth, we were able to host an Alumni and Friends Celebration. We look forward to Unified 2024.

**"Ag Fest" Basketball game-** VERC was at the annual Green V night. Where Jordan College has the opportunity to showcase its departments, clubs, and programs. VERC had an informational table at the event and met with students and community members.

**SPSS training-** VERC hosted training for undergraduates and graduate students on data analysis using the SPSS program that is available to students. Dr. Anil Shretha led the training.

**Affiliate researcher reception-** VERC held a reception for its affiliated researchers. The luncheon provided the opportunity to promote networking opportunities, give an overview of what VERC offers, and get feedback on needs and suggestions for improving VERC.

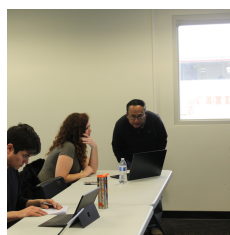
**Back to Basic Seminar by Waters Corporation-** Emily Wilkins, VERC's Instructional and Research Support Technician, and student Wen-Yin (Bella) Chueh attended the training covering HPLC techniques.



Unified Booth



"Ag Fest"  
Basketball game



SPSS Data  
Analysis training



Affiliate researcher  
reception

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## Upcoming Events

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Always keep an eye out for our affiliated researchers at upcoming conferences, conventions, and expos. They are out regularly sharing their latest research.

**ASEV- June 26 - 29, 2023-** VERC is excited to be back at ASEV this year. We will have an informational table, and several of our staff will be attending the conference.

**Admeo tour-** VERC Staff plan to visit the Admeo facility in Napa on June 29th, the last day of the ASEV conference, for a tour and to see their new SPICA analyzer in action.

**Unified - January 23-25, 2024-** We hope to see everyone again at UNIFIED.

**Unified Alumni and Friends Reunion- January 24, 2024 -** Keep an eye out for the Alumni and Friends reunion invitation.

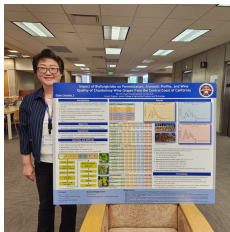
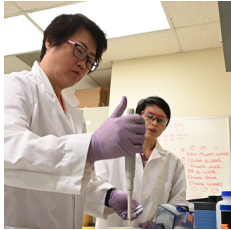
**World Ag Expo February 13 - 15, 2024-** We would like to promote viticulture and enology by offering our affiliated researchers and industry partners the opportunity to present a seminar at the 2024 World Ag Expo. If interested, please get in touch with Luz Mendoza at [luzmendoza@csufresno.edu](mailto:luzmendoza@csufresno.edu). If interested, please provide the following by November 1st, a 50-word description of the presentation/topic, a title, and the presenters' names. Each presenter would also need to provide a bio and a picture.

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## Student Spotlight

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### Wen-Yin (Bella) Chueh Viticulture and Enology Class of 2023



VERC would like to showcase outstanding students and their research in Viticulture and Enology. Our first Student spotlight is Wen-Yin (Bella) Chueh. She is a Fresno State undergraduate research assistant and was part of Cornell University's Food Science Summer Scholar Program. In addition, she has been working with Emily Wilkins, VERC Instructional and Research Support Technician, to further her lab skills and received additional training on several pieces of lab equipment. Through these opportunities, she has been able to work on the research projects listed below. Her research interests involve wine microbiology and food safety.

Wen-Yin's inspiration for the study of Viticulture and Enology began from "watch(ing) my father make rice liquor, fruit wine, and pickled food since I was a child. I have always been curious about the process that turns these foods into different and delicious beverages or foods."

#### Research Projects

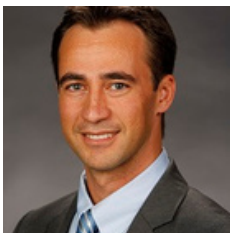
- Research the impact of biofungicides on Chardonnay wine fermentation, aromatic profile, and wine quality from the Central Coast of California.
- Assess the effect of canopy management of Hire Wire Trellis on Cabernet Sauvignon wine quality
- Explore effective ways to prevent microbial contamination in the wine bottling process
- Investigated the survival of *E. coli* 25922 & *Bacillus subtilis* during tempeh fermentation
- Studied the inhibitory effect of Lactic acid bacteria on *E. coli* 25922 growth

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## Affiliated Researcher Spotlight

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### Dr. Serhat Asci Agricultural Business



In each newsletter, we will spotlight a VERC Affiliated Researcher. In this issue, we are delighted to introduce you to Dr. Serhat Asci. Dr Asci's field of research is in regional food and agricultural industries, new technology adoption, international trade, and water issues emphasizing the competitiveness of agricultural production in California. Dr. Asci has contributed to numerous research projects, some of which are listed below. To stay at the forefront of the field, Dr. Asci remains actively engaged in national and regional professional associations. Looking ahead, Dr. Asci aims to delve into the impact of alcohol taxation on health, examine the relationship between income and urbanization, conduct a multilevel demand analysis for specialty crops in California, and analyze the effects of deficit irrigation and pesticide policies. Through his work with VERC he hopes to determine important topics in viticulture and enology and to increase collaboration with other faculty interested in water deficit studies.

#### Research Projects

- "The Alcoholic Beverages Demand and Evaluation of Tax Policies in Turkey,"
- "The Impact of the Free Trade Agreements on Wine Trade for the U.S."
- "An Economic Analysis of Late Harvest Grape Production: A Quest for Higher Quality Wine in Warm Climate Regions,"
- "The Production Economics of Managing Color in Hot Climates Using Mechanization and Irrigation."
- "Berry Composition and Economic Analysis of Cabernet Sauvignon and Ruby Cabernet Managed by Mechanical Leafing and Deficit Irrigation in the San Joaquin Valley of California."