

Facilitating research and outreach in Viticulture and Enology locally and beyond

*Notes from the Director*



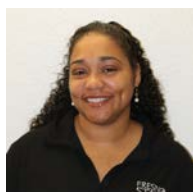
2022 was a year of changes for the staff at Viticulture and Enology Research Center (VERC). The Director of VERC, Dr. Stephan Sommer, left to take up a faculty position at the University of Missouri and library assistant Cherisse Villareal took up another position at Fresno State. We wish them both all the best in their new positions. We also had new staff join us this year; Luz Mendoza joined VERC as our CATI communications specialist and Tricia Totherow as the V&E library assistant.

I joined VERC as the interim Director after finishing my term as the Viticulture and Enology Department Chair. The college is seeking to fill the Director position as soon as possible. The new team is managing the day-to-day activities and making some changes to how VERC serves our clientele. In the meantime, we developed a mission statement for VERC: "Facilitating research and outreach in viticulture and enology locally and beyond." We invited researchers on campus to work with us as 'affiliated researchers,' and we got a very positive response. We now have 'affiliated researchers' from within the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology and other colleges. This venture aims to involve researchers in collaborative projects and efforts to develop viticulture and enology. Our 'affiliated researchers' list and their department can be seen in this newsletter. We are also redesigning our website to reflect the structure and programs of VERC in its entirety. We also plan to organize a monthly seminar series in the New Year. We have made some of our lab analytical resources a 'fee-for-service' resource to our 'affiliated researchers. VERC continues to provide post-award and logistic support to projects that relate to Viticulture and Enology. We strive to make VERC a vibrant place and would appreciate any feedback and suggestions on improving further. I would like to thank all who have supported VERC and continue to do so. I wish everyone a very happy holiday season and a great New Year 2023.

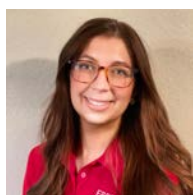
Anil Shrestha  
Interim Director, VERC

*Announcements*

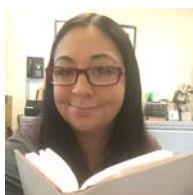
*VERC Staff*



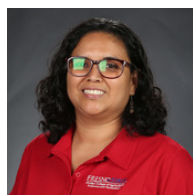
Rebecca White  
Administrative Support  
Coordinator II



Emily Wilkins  
Instructional and Research  
Support Technician III



Tricia Totherow  
Viticulture and Enology  
Library Assistant



Luz Mendoza  
Events and Outreach

**Departures**

We would like wish Dr. Stephan Sommer much luck in his new position and thank him for all the work he did here at VERC.

**New Staff**

We would like to welcome the new members of our staff:  
Luz Mendoza- Events and outreach  
Tricia Totherow- Library assistant

**Updated Website**

A new year and a new website. In January we will reveal an updated website where you will be able to stay up-to-date on what VERC has to offer and how we are helping to further research in Viticulture and Enology.

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## *Past Events*

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### **Grape Day**

August 9th 2022

We were happy to host this event in person this year. We had a variety of demonstrations and presentations from both industry and faculty. We look forward to hosting the event again in August 2024.

Always keep an eye out for our affiliated researchers at upcoming conferences, conventions and expos. They are out regularly sharing their latest research. For example, Interim Director Anil Shrestha presented at the Sustainable Ag Expo in San Luis Obispo on November 15 2022. The title of his talk was, "Persistence Strategies of Weeds: A Challenge for Vineyard Management"

Affiliated Researcher Luca Brillante gave talk at the same expo titled, "Assessing Grapevine Behavior in Space-Time for Precise Vineyard Management"

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## *Upcoming Events*

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### **Alumni reunion at Unified**

Location: Hyatt Regency Sacramento

Date: Wednesday January 25, 2023

Time 6:15- 8:00PM

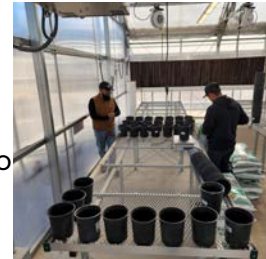
**Career and internship fair-** Traditionally held in February, we are currently looking at dates in fall 2023. Please keep an eye out for information.

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## *Latest News*

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**Greenhouses-** The project was completed in summer 2022. This was a shared project between the Viticulture and Enology Research Center and the Department of Viticulture and Enology. The Greenhouse has two spaces; one will be used for research purposes and the other for academic projects. To the right are two students working on their project.



### **Donald Emil Gumz Research Winery-**

The current goal of facilities & planning is to have renovations begin summer of 2023.

The Seismic/Structural Peer review has been approved. We are currently awaiting approval from Mechanical /Fire Safety Peer review & approval from the Chancellor's office.

**Search for new VERC Director-** Position description and search process is being finalized for the position to be filled in 2023. The college is seeking to fill the Director position.



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## VERC Affiliated Researchers

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The researchers affiliated with VERC are from various departments across the Fresno State campus. VERC offers its recourses to those conducting research in Viticulture and Enology. VERC's current affiliated researchers are:

Serhat	Asci	Agricultural Business	Steven	Pao	Food Science and Nutrition
Monique	Bell	Marketing and Logistics	Miguel	Pedroza	Viticulture and Enology
Sharon	Benes	Plant Science	Anil	Shrestha	Plant Science
Luca	Brillante	Viticulture and Enology	Kristy	Sun	Viticulture and Enology
Hubert	Cecotti	Computer Science	Sonet	Van Zyl	Viticulture and Enology
Margaret	Ellis	Plant Science	Zhi (Luke)	Wang	Earth and Environmental Sciences
Srinivasa	Konduru	Agricultural Business	Jacob	Wenger	Plant Science
Annette	Levi	Agricultural Business	William	Whalen	Viticulture and Enology
Todd	Lone	Agricultural Business	Cliff	Yu	Viticulture and Enology

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## VERC Services

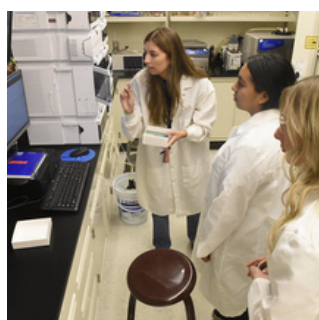
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### Lab Services

VERC offers a variety of lab services to assist with Viticulture and Enology research. The following tests are available to affiliated researchers and student researchers for a fee.

- FTIR analysis of must, must under fermentation, and wine samples with the WineScan instrument.
- High performance liquid chromatography to analyze anthocyanins and phenolic acids.
- Automated photometric analysis for grape juice and wine samples using the Thermo Gallery Plus Discrete Analyzer (located in JARC).

Please contact Emily Wilkins for inquiries and pricing.  
Email: [ewilkins@csufresno.edu](mailto:ewilkins@csufresno.edu) Phone: 559-278-2136



## Viticulture and Enology Library

Our library collection consists of historical and contemporary periodicals, books, conference proceedings, pamphlets and brochures, research reports, and theses. These cover the topics of viticulture and enology, as well as general agriculture, ag business and marketing, soil science, molecular and microbiology, chemistry, pest management, and sustainable and organic farming. All are welcome to use the library to support their interest and investment in these subjects.

Other Services: Our library offers the use of two computer stations connected to Pay-for-Print services, a private study area bookable for up to two two-hour sessions per week, an open seating area, and access to our print and digital collections and course reserves.

For more information, please visit the [Viticulture and Enology Library website](#) or contact Tricia Totherow, Library Assistant @ [ttotherow@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:ttotherow@mail.fresnostate.edu)



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## Student Support

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We would like to acknowledge the following organizations for supporting research at the graduate and undergraduate student level. They have provided student research assistantships in Viticulture and Enology.

Ag-One Richard and Saralee Kunde Research Assistantship  
Ag-One DiBuduo Family Assistantship  
Garabedian Family Viticulture Student Assistantship  
Halemeier Endowed Family Assistantship  
Horace O. Lanza Enology Assistantship  
Horace O. Lanza Viticulture Assistantship  
H. P. and Edna Metzler Viticulture Assistantship  
Laffort Enology Assistantship  
San Joaquin Valley Winemakers Research Assistantship  
Bayer Agriculture Division Graduate Student Assistantship

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## *Holiday Greetings*

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*Happy Holidays, from VERC*

May the holidays bring you and your family much joy.

DECEMBER 2022