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April 2016 Newsletter from the Robert Mondavi Institute

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**Ph.D. Student Forest "Ryan" Dowdy  
Awarded the 2016 Arla Foods Graduate  
Fellowship**

The Robert Mondavi Institute is pleased to announce the winner of the 2016 Arla Foods Graduate Fellowship. Forrest "Ryan" Dowdy is a Ph.D. student in the Food Science Graduate Group in the laboratory of Assistant Professor Christopher Simmons, Food Science and Technology. Dowdy's research will focus on "Microbial Desalination and Membrane Fouling Control for Dairy Processing." He will receive \$40,000 for one year to support his research. Dowdy will be formally recognized at a reception on April, 25 2016.



**NCIFT Speed Networking Banquet**

Hosted by the Department of Food Science and Technology in collaboration with NCIFT (Northern California Section of IFT), the Food Tech Club, Internship and Career Center and Robert Mondavi Institute, the annual event gathered representatives from 30 companies and more than 100 graduate and undergraduate students in the departments of Food Science and Technology, and others. Students interacted with companies in "speed networking" sessions followed by a dinner where student scholarship recipients were honored.

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### **Neal Williams Named Faculty Co-Director of the Honey and Pollination Center**

Neal Williams is an associate professor of entomology and a core faculty member in the Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis. His work ranges from basic research in bee biology and pollination to applied research on native bee conservation and crop pollination. Williams investigates the evolution and ecology of pollen specialization by bees and how such specialists contribute to plant reproduction compared to generalists. He also explores the role of habitat connectivity for the persistence of bees in agri-natural landscapes and how pollination service by native bee species is affected by land use change and human disturbance. Finally, Williams is working to develop native plant mixtures to bolster populations of the honey bee and wild bee species and promote sustainable pollination in different agricultural systems.



### **Second Annual Irish Beerfest**

On March 17th, 2016, nearly 500 people attended the Irish Beer Fest, a partnership between the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts and the Robert Mondavi Institute. The event featured 11 local craft brewers, including Track 7 Brewing, Lagunitas Brewing, Heretic Brewing Co., and others before a performance in Jackson Hall by the Irish Band Altan & Lúnasa with Tim O'Brien.

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Your support of the Robert Mondavi Institute helps foster the next generation of scientists. Funds from the Friends Program provides research and education opportunities for outstanding graduate students in the Departments of Viticulture and Enology, and Food Science and Technology.

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#### Thanks to Our Current Friends and Supporters

- **EPICUREAN**: Doug and Juli Muhleman
- **GOURMAND**: Clare Hasler-Lewis and Cameron Lewis; DeWayne Quinn
- **RESERVE**: Al & Margaret Giuliani; Wayne & Jacque Bartholomew; Glenn Workman; Harold McGee; James & Penelope Shackelford; Bill & Nancy Roe; Rob & Sonya Twyman; Elizabeth Clair; Randy Cobb & Kathie Benko; Bob & Barbara Leidigh; Barb Stuckey; Chuck & Lori Krouse; Darrell Corti; John Lescroart & Lisa Sawyer; Roger White; Glenn & Julie Nedwin; Jim & Erinne Aboytes; Kay Gist; Jane Killebrew; Dan & Suzanne Kimmel; Dr. Laurence Seigler
- **VINTAGE**: Mary Horton; Kim Lamb; Bill & Linda Schmidt; Susan & Robert Silva; Tom & Renee Ramme; Tori Blommer-O'Malley; Barbara Fingerut; Jina Lopez; Karl & Pam Gerdes
- **CULINARY**: Dan Sperling; John & Christine Bruhn; Seth Brunner; Don Roth & Jolán Friedhoff; Robert & Janice Boynton; Grant & Lois Chappell; William & Laura Lacy; Nancy & Robert Tate; Murry & Laura Baria; Cristy Jensen; Maynard Skinner; Chuck & Nancy Shulock; Rafael de la Fuente
- **FOODIE**: Andy Jones and Kate Duren



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