

VESTA Instructor Profile: Dr. Barry Gump

By Emily Gray

If you have a question about the wine industry, VESTA Instructor Dr. Barry Gump is an excellent person to ask.

Dr. Gump's career in enology began in 1980 when he was asked to teach a wine analysis course at California State University in Fresno. This work with their Enology program soon led to his fascination and research in analytical methodology applied to grapes, juices, and wines.

Prior to that time, Dr. Gump had attained his Bachelors degree in chemistry from Ohio State University and then gone on to receive his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at UCLA. After his schooling, Dr. Gump held a Post-Doctoral position at the Food and Drug Administration. He also took Sabbatical leaves with the National Institute of Science and Technology, the Department of Food Science at the national university in Uruguay, and the Quality Assurance Unit of the California Department of Water Resources. Additionally, Dr. Gump was a Fulbright Lecturer on Food and Wine Analysis in Uruguay.



Once Dr. Gump became a faculty member with the Enology program in Fresno, he began receiving invitations to judge wine competitions. He has now been judging wine professionally for over 25 years. Some of the major wine competitions he has judged include the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, the West Coast Wine Competition, and the International Wine competition.

Dr. Gump's work in the wine industry has not been limited to teaching and judging. From 1987 to 2007 he served as an Associate Editor for the Journal of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture (JASEV). Today he continues to review technical manuscripts for the JASEV and a number of other national, international, and trade publications.



In addition to his numerous positions, Dr. Gump has been honored with many awards throughout his career. In 1975 he received a Special Achievement Award from the US Department of Commerce and in 1981 he was elected Danforth Fellow. Dr. Gump's awards for his work with wines and the wine industry include being selected as a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of the Republic of Uruguay in the summer of 1983, and receiving various awards at California State University in Fresno. These honors range from Meritorious Performance and Professional Promise Awards in 1984 and 1990 to Outstanding Professor in 1992.

In 2005 Dr. Gump brought all of this knowledge and experience to the VESTA Program when he began teaching the Wine and Must Analysis course. He still instructs the course today and also coordinates the student interns for the Wine Production Internship and Cellar Operations Technology course. He has also played a vital role in recruiting other VESTA instructors including Zoran Ljepovic, John Giannini, and Ray Johnson.

Currently, Dr. Gump is a member of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture. He has held a seat on the Society's publications committee for a number of years and has served a term on their Board of Directors. Dr. Gump also currently holds an endowed chair position in beverage management at Florida International University where he teaches classes that provide technical aspects of wine to the students there.

Upon being asked what recommendations he would offer to his VESTA students he says, "Advice I would offer VESTA students is to not skimp on their education regarding grape growing and/or wine making. There are considerable technical aspects to both of these subjects, and one should not try to succeed without learning them."