

## Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

April Updates  
2015

### Institute Staff

#### Murli Dharmadhikari

Director and Extension Enologist

#### Tammi Martin

Office Manager

#### Paulina Biernacka

Assistant Scientist

#### Jennie Savits

Research Associate

#### Mike White

Field Specialist-Viticulture

### Research, Quality, Training

The Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute was formed as a result of the state's evolving grape & wine industry.

Goals of the Institute include:

- Conduct research to evaluate cold-hardy grape varieties that can thrive in the Midwest
- Conduct enology research
- Assist with implementation of the Iowa Quality Wine Consortium (IQWC) - a quality-assurance stamp of approval program
- Establish an outreach program to the industry by training a team of specialists
- Partner with community colleges to develop job training programs specific to growing grapes and making wine.

### Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute

#### Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition

2312 Food Sciences Building

Ames, IA 50011

Phone: (515) 294-3308

Fax: (515) 294-4362

[www.extension.iastate.edu/wine](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/wine)

*Helping support the state's evolving grape and wine industry, because the potential economic opportunities in wineries, value-added agriculture and tourism are limitless.*

### Research

#### Northern Grapes Project (NGP)

• Obj 4d. Nearly 30 industry members representing 12 different states are taking the initial steps toward a regional cold climate wine quality assurance program. Over the next few weeks, representatives will be meeting with their state associations and proposing an organizational structure.

### **IQWC program support**

• On April 24, we held our first sensory panel using the new IQWC database software system. Instead of paper and pencil, panelist entered their scores and comments directly via Chromebooks. For the past two years, Tammi and Jennie (now

joined by Paulina) have been working with ISU IT Services Academic Technologies to design the system. Information Systems Leader, Jeffrey Sorensen and student assistant, Eli, were present for the system debut.



*ISU Information Systems Leader, Jeffrey Sorensen (Right) and student assistant Eli (left) put their newly developed IQWC online system to the test.*

With the exception of a couple small bugs, all went smoothly.

Afterward panelists were able to provide feedback directly to the IT team. Suggestions for improvement will be implemented before the next panel.

- Have you renewed your Quality Wine Consortium membership? Take advantage of all your [benefits](#) throughout the year.
- Originate your IQ sample submissions at <http://apps.wine.iastate.edu>. This is a custom system, so feedback and suggestions for improvement are welcome. Be sure to call if you have any questions.
- 11 samples were submitted in April with 8 earning quality certifications!

## Staff



*New student helper Brittney is quickly finding her way around our wine lab.*

- Brittney Thom is our newest student research assistant. She is a senior in Chemistry with an anticipated graduate date of December 2015. She'll be helping Paulina with flavor research as well as assisting Jennie with wine diagnostic services as needed.
- Interviews for the new Enology Field Specialist/Winemaker position have been completed. Pending administrative approval,

our candidate will begin work at the Institute on July 16. Should all go according to plan, we'll introduce our newest team member in next month's issue!

## Lab activities

- In April, 16 lab samples were submitted for analysis from 9 different wineries (6 based in Iowa and 3 from out-of-state).
- Paulina and our student lab assistants have been busy covering both the research and wine diagnostics labs. Jennie will return from maternity leave at the beginning of June.
- Research using GC-MS/O to determine white and red wine flavor/aroma components continues.

## Outreach

Murli presented to an ISU study abroad class to assist them with pre-departure learning. Among other places, the class will be visiting the Champagne region of France. Murli provided an overview of the wine region, some history, basic information about winemaking, and some details about sparkling wine with particular attention to méthode champenoise.

## Expanding our knowledge

- Murli participated in the ISU Extension and Outreach, Agriculture and Natural Resources professional development conference. Topics such as successful programming, educational effectiveness, and work-life balance were discussed.

- Murli is currently participating in the Washington State University Southern France Winery and Vineyard Tour April 19-May 1. We'll likely receive a full report upon his return.



*Murli investigating the wines of France*

- Paulina has successfully completed Introduction to Wine and Winemaking, the first in a series of Winemaking Certificate courses offered by UC Davis. This coursework is strengthening the relationship between winemaking practicalities and Paulina's extensive knowledge of analytical and flavor chemistry.

## Coming up...

- ISU Commencement ceremonies will be held May 8-9.
- Paulina will be attending the International Symposium on Capillary Chromatography and GCX/GC Symposium to hone her expertise in using the analytical equipment for wine research (May 16-21, Ft. Worth, TX).
- Offices will be close on May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.