What will improve the quality of life for our region and our world?

To your health!
Think of Susan Ebeler and Andy Waterhouse next time you sip a glass of red wine. These two wine chemists in the nation’s premier wine research program are teasing out the chemical secrets of wine, hoping to discover how certain compounds may help prevent cancer and heart disease.

Waterhouse studies the possible health benefits of a group of chemicals in wine called “phenolics,” which prevent the oxidation process that can clog human arteries and cause heart attacks. He has explored how phenolics work, which ones are likely to offer the greatest health benefits and how farming practices may affect the concentration of these compounds in wine grapes. He also has studied the feasibility of labeling some foods and beverages to let consumers know their phenolic content.

Meanwhile, Ebeler has shown that wine rich in the potent antioxidant “catechin” can delay tumor formation in laboratory mice. Her research team is now exploring how various wine-processing techniques may impact the protective qualities of catechin, and how catechin and related compounds may prevent cancer.

There is part of a growing body of research that suggests how the foods and beverages we enjoy may also hold the key, at least in part, to better health and longer life.
HAPPY JACK HOME TO PLAY
STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT AND
AROUND-THE-CLOCK CARE AT UC DAVIS’
VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL SAVED
THE DAY FOR JACK DIXON, A CHOCOLATE-
colored standard poodle from Sonoma, Calif.

An irritating middle-of-the-night cough had
rapidly developed into a fever and lung inflam-
mation. Jack’s lungs were filling with fluid as
infection spread throughout his body. The 16-
month-old dog was rushed to UC Davis, where
a mechanical ventilator offered his only chance
for survival.

Jack’s system was beginning to shut down, so
veterinarians in the intensive care unit quickly
administered antibiotics and fluids to deal with
the infection, supported his lungs with the ven-
tilator and provided 24-hour monitoring and one-
on-one care.

After five days on the ventilator and an addi-
tional week recuperating, Jack went home to
owners Jeannie Dixon and Ken Sellai.

It is unclear exactly what started Jack’s illness, per-
haps a snuffed-up piece of paper triggered cough-
ing and vomiting, which caused him to aspirate
fluids and food particles into his lungs. UC Davis
veterinarians are exploring underlying causes that
might explain why the infection hit Jack so hard.

Meanwhile, Jeannie and Ken are just delighted
that a mechanical ventilator, a team of highly
trained veterinary professionals and a lot of TLC
brought the world’s “most willing and agreeable
dog” back home to play.

SHAKESPEARE GOES TO SCHOOL
BEGINNING THIS YEAR, SACRAMENTO-
AREA STUDENTS FACING HAMLET’S
SOLiloquy OR A SHAKESPEAREAN SONNET
WILL HAVE A LOT OF HELP UNDERSTANDING
not just the words but the relevancy of the 17th-
century genius to their lives.

A new agreement between the Globe Theatre of
London and UC Davis will bring enriched under-
standing of the bard and his era to UC Davis and
high school students in the surrounding eight-
county region. UC Davis, in fact, is the only
university in the West with a formal relationship
with the Globe.

Plans call for undergraduate and graduate classes
at UC Davis, teacher training here and in Lon-
don, and scholar exchanges and courses for
graduate students at the re-created Elizabethan
drama through a professional development
program at Mondavi Center.

“The Globe project will help us make Shakespeare
truly accessible to new generations,” says theatre
and dance chair Peter Lichtenfels, director of
the campus Globe project and an internationally
renowned theatre director.

Beginning in the 2006–07 academic year, the
campus is also providing continuing education
credit for high school instructors in literature
and drama through a professional development
program at Mondavi Center.