

**Sayed Badr**  
Plant Science and  
Mechanized  
AgricultureSchool of Agricultural  
Sciences and Technology

Only two university campuses in the United States can boast academic programs that concentrate on the study of viticulture — the science and technology of growing grapes. California State University, Fresno is the proud home to one of these rare programs. No one is more proud of this fact than Dr. Sayed Badr, a professor in the Department of Plant Science and Mechanized Agriculture.

In 1983, Dr. Badr was named director of the table grape program in viticulture, after 13 years of teaching in what was then the School of Agriculture and Home Economics. As far as he is concerned, the program's creation was a step forward for both the university and Sayed Badr.

"I would consider that a milestone in my career at CSUF," the former acting assistant dean and director of graduate programs in agriculture notes. "I've always enjoyed my work here, but the last five years

have been the most enjoyable because of the diversity of my responsibilities. The fact that we are one of the very few institutions to offer a program of this kind, allows us to attract students and visitors from all over the world.

"We have local and California students, students from as far away as Florida, and students from various countries, including Mexico, Spain, Morocco, Indonesia, Switzerland and Afghanistan. All of this has created international recognition for our program.

"When we get visitors from other schools, states and countries, they are very envious of our opportunity. Because we have a working laboratory, we are able to combine the academic basics with the applied program. That is what is special about our viticulture program."

Because CSUF is situated in the heart of the nation's grape production region — 90 percent of the national harvest is produced in California — Dr. Badr's students are in the driver's seat in terms of research and job opportunities. This opportunity translates to well-prepared graduates, he claims.

"We have received grants from the California Table Grape Commission and the California Agricultural Technology Institute to evaluate new table grape varieties, in cooperation with United States Department of Agriculture researchers, and to conduct other research projects on table grapes. This helps the students and faculty not only in being

current, but also allows the graduate and undergraduate students to be involved in research. As a result, our students are not strictly practitioners, but innovators as well."

A native of Cairo, Egypt, Dr. Badr came to the United States in 1963 to pursue his master's and doctoral degrees at the University of California, Davis. He has been here ever since. Although he has lived in the United States for 25 years, the additional insight he affords his students as a naturalized American citizen are just as important, he feels.

"Having lived here for some time after being born in a different culture — being able to see 'both sides of the fence' — I can offer the students a broader perspective. My travels, recently to Taiwan, Honduras and North Yemen, affect this as well. I always try to bring something back to relate to my students, so they can see how blessed we are here in the United States with our natural resources.

Because Dr. Badr recognizes the opportunity his students have, he believes it is important to motivate his students to strive for the most he and the viticulture program can offer.

"My students recognize me as a demanding teacher. They expect to work hard in my classes. I don't spoon-feed information.

"I try to make them think. I lead them to sources of information. Showing them how and where to find information, I believe, is more important than remembering a few facts.