Cal Poly Research Solves Earthquake Problem for Wineries

To: Trade press editors, assignment editors, photo editors, education reporters

Who: Cal Poly structural engineering Professor Charles Chadwell

What: A demonstration of an exciting new technology that will help prevent wine barrel stacks from toppling and breaking during earthquakes, which has the potential to save the wine industry millions of dollars.

Where: Cal Poly Advanced Technology Lab, on N. Perimeter and Dexter Rd. across from Bldg. 13. For map go to http://www.calpoly.edu/cpmaps/

When: Wednesday, August 2 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Background:
Charles Chadwell has been testing various configurations of wine barrel stacks to better safeguard wine stores during major earthquakes.

Professor Chadwell will discuss the innovative technique he has developed to modify the stacks. To demonstrate the effectiveness of the new technique, Professor Chadwell will recreate the Northridge earthquake, using a full-scale shake table and a four-barrel stack.

Food will be served at the reception, and wine industry professionals who plan to attend are encouraged to bring a bottle of wine to share.

Previously recorded video of barrels toppling during a Northridge-quake simulation -- without the modification -- is available.

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