

PURDUE FOOD SCIENCE
GRADUATE STUDENT

NEWSLETTER • Spring 2025



NEW SPRING 2025 **FOOD SCIENCE GRADUATE STUDENTS**

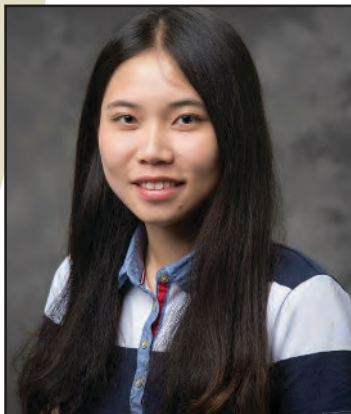


Paul Alba, MS
Dr. Chen's Lab



Dekun Cheng, PhD
Dr. Wang's Lab

GRADUATE STUDENTS - Graduated Spring 2025



Han Chen PhD



**Jose Haro Reyes
PhD**



Kamrun Nahar MS



**Kevin Rodriguez
Maldonado MS**



Maxwell Voorn PhD

GRADUATE STUDENTS - PASSED PRELIMINARY EXAMS



Daniel Fajardo



Dahye Lee



Luping Xu

On April 9, 2025, we rolled out the red carpet (and a food truck!) to celebrate our incredible graduate students during Grad Student Appreciation Week! Our grad students are the heart of Purdue Food Science. They also played a trivia game "Get to Know Your Grad Chair". The winners were Edward Moncada, Fransheska Semidey, Anael Kimble, Kayla Roy, Rui Zhu. Thank you for your hard work, dedication and passion for research and innovation.



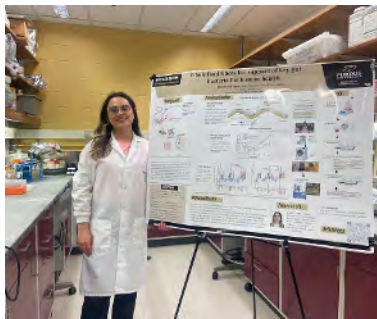
The Food Science Department had a Spring picnic on April 25, 2025. We served hamburgers and sides that faculty, staff, and students brought in. We played bingo and several people won prizes. It was a great last get together to end the spring semester.



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Victory Igwe received the 2025 Indiana Corn Marketing Council Gary Lamie graduate assistantship. He will be invited to share highlights of his corn-related research with the Indiana Corn Marketing Council in person or via a pre-recorded video during a board meeting in 2026.



Congratulations to Lauren Sofía Yepes Fernandez on winning the Fermentation Frenzy poster competition! Lauren Sofía is a Master's student in Dr. Thaisa Cantu Jungle's lab. Her winning poster was entitled, "Whole food fibers for support of key gut bacteria for human health." Way to go!



Congratulations to Rahul Kamath, who was named a recipient of the International Society of Beverage Technologists (ISBT) scholarship! This scholarship is awarded annually to an outstanding graduate student who has shown an interest in pursuing a career in the beverage industry. Way to go, Rahul!!

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Mary Oluyemi received the Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Oral Research Review Award in April 2025.



Mary Oluyemi received the Student Soybean Innovation Dr. Rodolfo Pinal People's Choice Award in March 2025.



Mary Oluyemi came in second place for the "Say It In 6" Competition through the Office of the Vice Provost of Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Han Chen was in the AG Spotlight this year. Chen has graduated this semester, and plans to remain in the field of food safety. Whether that's in academia or industry, she's "still exploring."

When she's not working, Chen enjoys food – no, her work doesn't put her off eating! She's especially fond of hot pot, and loves exploring Chicago's Chinatown.



Amandeep Singh received honorable mention for the Charles Stumbo Paper Competition at the Institute for Thermal Processing Specialists (IFTPS) conference in Reno.



Food Science

FEEDING THE WORLD.

PURDUE FOOD SCIENCE

745 Agriculture Mall Dr.
West Lafayette, IN 47907
(765) 494-8258

