

HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Greetings HLA Alumni and Friends!

You are all members of an elite club – you spent time in the halls, classrooms and lab spaces of the HORT building learning how to grow better plants, design better public spaces, manage land more sustainably, and nourish people’s souls with the wonderful outputs of horticulture, sustainable farming, turf management, and landscape architecture! I am delighted to be a member of your ranks as Department Head – I have been serving in this role since January of 2021 and I love everything I’ve learned about this department.



We have so many great things going on...

1. Our undergraduate students have been filling the hallways, studios, and labs learning from each other and their instructors. They are also filling our *brand new* Undergraduate Resource Room. Some of you probably remember the computer lab on the second floor of HORT – as more and more students got their own computers and we outfitted Landscape Architecture studios with computers, fewer and fewer students were using the computer lab. So, we re-modeled! We still have 4 computers but we also have space for hanging out between classes, doing group work, studying plant samples, and having small club meetings. I love this bright and sunny space!!
2. Our faculty, postdocs and graduate students are doing amazing and important work with funding from federal agencies, state agencies, and the private sector. From understanding how plants use nitrogen - to thinking about how to minimize uptake of soil contaminants in urban agriculture - to reducing inputs needed for turfgrass - to working with communities to create visions of sustainable landscapes, our work is pathbreaking and innovative.
3. Our Extension staff are busy, busy, busy! Our Extension Master Gardener program had 2,482 active volunteers in 2021 who spent over 97,000 hours working to improve communities in Indiana. We have hired new Extension Specialists focused on Consumer Horticulture, Organics, and Viticulture. Everyone is busy doing relevant research and then sharing results with growers about how to minimize weed pressure in vegetable plots, how to establish an organic farm, how to protect against invasive pests in vineyards, and so much more!

I have been lucky enough to meet several alumni who have come back to visit us and I encourage you to come back as well! In the meantime, please follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with our latest research findings, extension events, and student activities!

Linda Stalker Prokopy, Ph.D.

she/her/hers

Department Head and Professor

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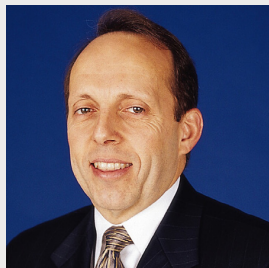


Horticulture and
Landscape Architecture

PURDUE DISTINGUISHED AG ALUMNI AWARDS

MARVIN MILLER

Marvin Miller received his BS degree in Horticulture and his MS degree in Agricultural Economics at Purdue. Under the mentorship of Professor Eric Oesterle for the latter, Miller researched consumer preferences and attitudes toward cut flowers in supermarkets. At the time, only five national chains regularly sold cut flowers due to profitability concerns. By identifying mass-market potential for mixed bouquets, Miller's work helped increase sales; within several years, over 80% of U.S. supermarkets profitably sold cut flowers.



After completing his Ph.D. at the University of Florida in 1983, Miller joined the Ball Horticultural Company, which breeds, produces, and distributes seeds, cuttings, plugs, and liners to commercial floriculturists worldwide. Today, Miller plays an essential role in organizing sales coverage, training sales representatives and new employees, and identifying trends to meet consumer demand.

Miller has also served on the Purdue Agriculture Dean's Advisory Council and many industry boards and advisory committees, including efforts for the United States Department of Agriculture. He regularly welcomes opportunities to share his expertise with Purdue students, faculty, and Extension personnel.



SARAH LEASKEY, RLA, ASLA

Sarah Leaskey joined OLIN in 2007 after spending a year in the Philadelphia studio as its annual Purdue intern. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture and was awarded the 2017 Purdue University Landscape Architecture Distinguished Alumni Award.

With more than 10 years' professional experience in landscape architecture, Leaskey has worked on a range of projects, such as University of California, Berkeley's California Memorial Stadium and a series of private residences across France and Switzerland.

Most recently, Leaskey worked on the design and realization of Apple Park in Cupertino, California. Now the largest LEED Platinum certified office building in North America, Apple's Corporate Headquarters and Visitor Center feature more than 125 acres of landscape area, with more than 7,000 trees planted over the course of the project. Leaskey serves on the Professional Advisory Committee for the Landscape Architecture Program in the department.

DR. JULES JANICK HONORED WITH THE PURDUE AG ALUMNI CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION



Dr. Jules Janick received the Purdue Ag Alumni Certificate of Distinction at the annual Fish Fry on April 30, 2022. This award was in recognition of his close to 70-year-long career in HLA and his significant contributions to the field of horticulture.

Following the event, Dr. Linda Prokopy and Distinguished Ag Alumni Marvin Miller of Ball Horticultural presented the award to Dr. Jules Janick at his home, who was unable to attend.

PURDUE AWARDED \$10 MILLION FOR #DIVERSECORNBELT PROJECT



A \$10 million project seeks to make Midwestern agriculture more resilient by diversifying farms, marketing, and the agricultural landscape. Linda Prokopy, department head and professor of horticulture and landscape architecture leads the project, with HLA team members Steve Hallett, Elizabeth Maynard, Aaron Thompson, and Ariana Torres.

"Growing only a rotation of corn and soybeans is not necessarily sustainable economically, environmentally or socially. We will be working with farmers in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa to evaluate alternative cropping systems that can be used in the Midwest."

"We will examine the environmental costs and benefits of diversified systems through on-farm research, as well as identify economic and social barriers to change, for the future. We hope this project will bring together farmers, researchers and the agri-food community to figure out how."

PURDUE LANDSCAPE REPORT RECEIVED THE PURDUE AGRICULTURE TEAM AWARD



The Purdue Landscape Report received the Purdue Agriculture TEAM Award, recognizing their interdisciplinary achievements. The team includes members from HLA, Botany and Plant Pathology, Forestry and Natural Resources, and Entomology. HLA members are Kyle Daniel, Aaron Patton, Rosie Lerner, Kirby Kalbaugh, and Lori Jolly-Brown.

TURF SCIENCE STUDENTS THRIVE AT GCSAA COLLEGIATE TURF BOWL



In February 2022, 18 turf science students competed in the Golf Course Superintendents Association (GCSAA) Collegiate Turf Quiz Bowl Challenge, testing students' knowledge on topics like turfgrass, weed, seed and pest identification, mathematical calculations for the turf industry, equipment identification and business management for the green industry. Purdue sent five teams and placed three teams in the top ten, including the winning team. This is a back-to-back win for the Purdue undergraduates who also won last year's competition as well as the competition conducted by the Sports Field Managers Association annual meeting in January. Students were coached by Jada Powlen (PhD student) and Dr. Cale Bigelow.

SELECT FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS



Sean Rotar, PLA, FASLA
American Society of Landscape
Architects Fellow



Dr. Aaron Patton
American Society of Agronomy
Fellow



Dr. Kathryn Orvis
NACTA Teaching Scholar Award,
ASHS Teaching Award



Dr. Krishna Nemali
Purdue Societal Impact Fellow



Dr. Yiwei Huang
Assistant Professor of
Landscape Architecture



Miranda Purcell
Viticulture
Extension Specialist



Karen Mitchell
Consumer Horticulture
Extension Specialist



Ashley Adair
Organic Agriculture
Extension Specialist

2022 AWARDS RECOGNITION AND SENIOR DINNER

On April 22, 2022, the department held its first annual awards recognition and senior dinner. Outstanding students, faculty-nominated award winners, scholarship winners, club officers, HLA Undergraduate Ambassadors, and our May and August 2022 graduation candidates were all recognized for their efforts.



Faculty Nominated Undergraduate Award Winners: [L-R] Dr. Linda Prokopy, Deniz Camli-Saunders (SFS, Best Promoter of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives), Noelle Dennis (LARC, Best Teaching Assistant), Jacob Battista (LARC, Best Researcher), Rachael Herring (LARC, Best Leadership), Grace Moore (SFS, Best Departmental Service). Not pictured: Sadia Hildebrand (HOSC, Best Researcher).



HLA Outstanding Students: [L-R] Zac Cody (Senior, LARC), Aubrey Dague (Sophomore, HOSC), Robin Blackwell (Junior, HOSC), Serine Kao (Freshman, LARC)

HLA RESEARCH AND DESIGN RETREAT

The department held its Research and Design Retreat on May 13, 2022 at the Holiday Inn City Center, Lafayette Indiana.



HLA Impact Awards, Graduate Student Awards, and Research and Design Retreat Travel Grant Winners: [Front Row, L-R]: Xiaojin Wang (1st Place Ph.D. Poster Travel Grant), Jada Powlen (Outstanding Teaching Award), Katherine Pivaral (2nd Place Master Poster Travel Grant), Fatemeh Sheibani (2nd Place Ph.D. Oral Travel Grant), Ying Li (Teaching Impact Award), Pam Fisher (Staff Impact Award).

[Second Row, L-R]: Liang Tang (Outstanding Ph.D. Research Award), Thiti Suttiyut (2nd Place Ph.D. Poster Travel Grant), Patrick Oelschlager (2nd Place Masters Oral Travel Grant), Amanda Folck (1st Place Masters Poster Travel Grant), Vera Vukovic (1st Place Masters Oral Travel Grant), George Meyer (Outstanding Ph.D. Research Award), Stephen Meyers (Early Career Award), Sanchez Philocles (Outstanding M.S. Research Award).

Not Pictured: Mike Dana (Department Hero Award), Petrus Langenhoven (Extension Impact Award), Aaron Patton (Research Impact Award), José Enrique Velasco (Outstanding Extension Award), Jeanine Arana Cordonero (Outstanding M.S. Research Award).



May and August 2022 Graduation Candidates.

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NEW FACILITIES



The Advanced Hydroponics and Phenotyping Facility opened to students in Spring 2022. It will be used by multiple courses in the department to provide hands-on production and research experience. Students in HORT 31900 used the facility this spring to conduct research projects.



Our new Undergraduate Resource Room opened in the Fall of 2021 in the former computer lab. Natural lighting, modern furniture, carpeting, and computers help create the perfect space for our undergraduate students to study, collaborate, or relax before classes.

IN MEMORIUM

THE PASSING OF LEGENDARY PLANTSMAN AND PROFESSOR HARRISON FLINT - APRIL 11, 2021

Over his near 30-year career at Purdue University (1968 – 1997), Harrison advised over 300 horticulture undergraduates, including some 150 in a special program he created called the Professional Plantsman (PLANTPRO) and later renamed the Public Horticulture major.



Professor Flint instructed several classes at Purdue, including one on planting design (co-taught with landscape architecture faculty), as well as a non-technical, horticulture writing course. However, it was HORT 217 – Woody Landscape Plants – for which he was best known. This arduous yet rewarding class taught 1000s of horticulture, landscape architecture, and urban forestry students not just to identify trees and shrubs (often when leafless), but also their stress tolerances, landscape usage, and cultural histories. For those wanting more, there was HORT 527 – Advanced Woody Plant Systematics – which required deep-thinking, independent scholarship, and a great deal of writing. While on the road for weekend fieldtrips to gardens across the Midwest, students and professor held philosophical discussions and quizzed each other using Rehder’s Manual.