

# HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



## Alumni and Friends -

We are so excited to share with you all the great things that are happening in HLA!

We started out the 22-23 academic year with our first annual Welcome (Back) Dinner for our undergraduate students (picture of some of the attendees above!) -- it was so fun! We ate tacos and played bingo and got to know each other right in our own backyard. The year just kept getting better from there and we had lots to celebrate –

- Our faculty received fantastic recognition from different societies for their research and teaching and two faculty got promoted.
- Our Landscape Architecture program passed its re-accreditation with flying colors.
- We hired a Head Gardener for the beautiful Jules Janick Horticulture Garden.
- We welcomed many alumni back to campus for self-guided tours of our facilities at Homecoming and to speak in many of our classes (let me know if you'd like to come back to speak!).
- Our students participated in study abroad programs (many led by our own faculty and staff) and diverse internships.
- Our graduate program, now including graduate opportunities with Landscape Architecture faculty, continues to thrive and our graduate students have formed a strong community that benefits all of us.
- We have been busy with recruitment efforts and leading tours for prospective students. We have a new HLA Ambassador Program comprised of enthusiastic undergraduate students who want others to know the value of a degree from HLA! You can see this great two minute video Agricultural Communications made for us here: <https://tinyurl.com/hlavideo>. We are excited to report that we are on track to have over 200 students in the department this Fall for the first time since 2011!
- We updated our strategic plan and hopefully our vision speaks to you as much as it speaks to me: Horticulture and Landscape Architecture strives to be a world leader in developing innovative technologies, systems, and future leaders through science, practice, and service in horticulture, sustainable food and farming systems, turf management, and landscape architecture. We are connected by our passion for sustainability, inclusion, collaboration, impactful teaching, community-building, and innovation. We are THE PLACE in the Midwest to be if you are interested in horticultural crops, sustainable farming, and creating living landscapes.

Read on for more updates and keep in touch! All the best, Linda

**Linda Stalker Prokopy, Ph.D.**

*she/her/hers*

Department Head and Professor

## MARY LOU HAYDEN RETIRES



Mary Lou Hayden hung up her clippers at the end of the Spring semester. Mary Lou positively impacted thousands of students during her career teaching HORT 360 and HORT 370 (Flower



Arrangement and Indoor Plant Management & Professional Floral Design) here in HLA. Many of her students went on to careers in the floral business while others simply grew to appreciate the beauty of cut flowers. Mary Lou consistently received high student evaluations in her courses and received enthusiastic comments

speaking to the lasting impact of her teaching. Mary Lou also managed first the Purdue University Horticulture Garden and then the Jules Janick Horticulture Garden.

## HLA'S STUDY ABROAD COURSES ARE GOING STRONG



HLA faculty and staff continue to manage and lead study abroad opportunities each year.

Dr. Peter Hirst, Professor of Horticulture and Associate Director International Programs in Agriculture, and Miranda Purcell, Viticulture Extension Specialist, lead a two-week study abroad trip mid-May to New Zealand. They visited Auckland, Tauranga, Rotorua, Taupo, Napier and Hastings. Students were introduced to the many agricultural enterprises in New Zealand - vegetable and fruit production, viticulture, Arataki honey, robotic dairy operation and farmers markets. Students also got to explore Rangitoto Island (a dormant volcano), Waitomo glow worm cave, Hobbiton, Lord of the Rings movie set, the Māori culture and several craft breweries and wineries.

Dr. Aaron Thompson co-led a spring break trip, Exploring Rural Development in Ireland: Design Thinking & Placemaking. The program focused on examining the factors that influence community development in Ireland. Purdue students collaborated with students from the National University of Ireland Galway to learn more about Irish agriculture, history, economics, community development, natural resource management, and tourism through interactive field trips and community partner visits.

## DR. CALE BIGELOW AND DR. JADA POWLEN RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS TEACHING AWARDS AT NACTA



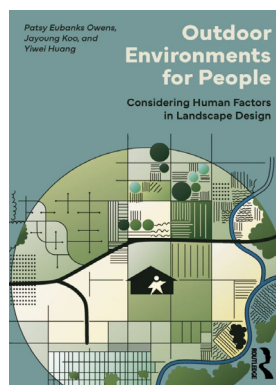
Two of HLA's own received recognition for their excellence in teaching at this year's National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) annual conference. Dr. Cale Bigelow received the NACTA Educator Award. Dr. Jada Powlen received the Graduate Student Teacher Award.

## HLA AMBASSADORS ASSIST IN DEPARTMENT RECRUITMENT AND OUTREACH



This year, 14 students volunteered as HLA Ambassadors. They provided valuable assistance with departmental recruitment efforts by engaging with prospective students and parents during tours. The Ambassadors answered questions, provided information, and shared their experiences as students. They also conducted outreach within the Department, College and Community to promote the various fields in horticulture and landscape architecture.

## DR. YIWEI HUANG'S FORTHCOMING BOOK



Assistant Professor Yiwei Huang's co-authored book *Outdoor Environments for People: Considering Human Factors in Landscape Design* will be published in August 2023. The book discusses outdoor built environments and how designers can incorporate knowledge of everyday human behavior to create better spaces. It draws from various disciplines such as environmental psychology, cultural geography, and sociology, and explores theories such as personal space, territoriality, privacy, and place attachment.

The book highlights the impact of place design on individuals and communities in terms of health, safety, and belonging.

## SELECT FACULTY AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS



**Dr. Josh Widhalm**  
2023 University Faculty Scholar,  
19th Class of LEAD21



**Dr. Aaron Patton**  
Fellow of the Crop Science  
Society of America



**Dr. Celina Gómez**  
Associate Professor, Controlled  
Environment Agriculture



**Dr. Moriah Bilenky**  
Assistant Professor, Sustainable  
Agriculture



**Dr. Kathryn Orvis**  
Promoted to Professor



**Dr. Ying Li**  
Promoted to Associate Professor



**Erin Percevault**  
Assistant Professor of Practice,  
Landscape Architecture



**Karen Sullivan**  
Head Gardener, Jules Janick  
Horticulture Garden

## 2023 AWARDS RECOGNITION AND SENIOR DINNER

On April 20, 2023, the department held its second annual awards recognition and senior dinner. Outstanding students, faculty-nominated award winners, scholarship winners, club officers, HLA Undergraduate Ambassadors, and our May and August 2023 graduation candidates were all recognized for their efforts.



**American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Academic Honor and Merit Awards:** [L-R]: Harland Nadeau (Honor Award); Kayla Kramer (Merit Award); Autumn McNinch (Merit Award); Chris Curnell (Honor Award).



**Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association's Henry W. Gilbert Memorial Scholarship Winners:** [L-R] Harland Nadeau, Tess Eppert, Harrison Smith.



May and August 2023 Graduation Candidates.

## HLA RESEARCH AND DESIGN RETREAT

HLA Graduate Students organized the HLA Research and Design Retreat, held May 11 at the John S. Wright Center in Martell Forest. Departmental Awards were announced at the end of the retreat.

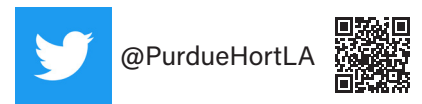
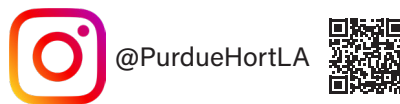
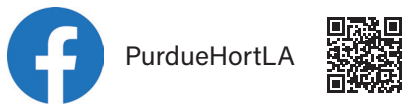


**HLA Impact Awards:** Yiwei Huang (Teaching Impact Award); Nathan Deppe (Staff Impact Award); Wenjing Guan (Early Career Award); Kirby Kalbaugh (Department Hero); Kranthi Varala (Research Impact Award); Stephen Meyers (Extension Impact Award)

**HLA Graduate Awards:** Emmanuel Cooper (Outstanding MS Research Award); Fatemeh Sheibani (Outstanding Ph.D. Research Award); Jeanine Arana (Outstanding Extension Award)

**Research and Design Retreat Travel Grant Winners:**  
**Masters Oral Presentation:** Camila Ulloa (1st Place); Tanvir Dutt (2nd Place). **Masters Poster Presentation:** Emmanuel Cooper (1st Place); Vera Vukovic (2nd Place). **Ph.D. Oral Presentation:** Jeanine Arana (1st Place); Antonio Verzotto (2nd Place). **Ph.D. Poster Presentation:** George Meyer (1st Place); Dhuha Mohamed (2nd Place)

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**NEW LED STRATEGIES COULD MAKE VERTICAL FARMING MORE PRODUCTIVE, LESS COSTLY**



Dr. Cary Mitchell and Ph.D. student Fatemeh Sheibani have created two LED lighting strategies to increase yield and lower energy costs for indoor agriculture. LED lighting is the sole lighting source in vertical agriculture, which is the fastest growing sector in controlled environment agriculture. However, labor and energy costs threaten many of the startups' future. They found that reducing the distance between LED lighting systems and plant canopies improved efficiency. They are also testing a focused-lighting approach that saves energy during earlier growth stages. These new strategies can lower energy use while still achieving high yields.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**THE PASSING OF DR. RICHARD HAYDEN - DECEMBER 29, 2022**

Dr. Richard Hayden, Professor Emeritus of Purdue Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, passed away on Thursday, December 29, 2022 at the age of 94.

In 1966, the Hayden family moved to Lafayette where Richard took a position at Purdue University as the Horticultural Extension Agent. He concentrated on improving apple varieties and production techniques for the Indiana fruit growers. He spent many weeks each spring conducting many hands-on seminars for fruit growers.

In 1967, they bought 20 acres northwest of Purdue where they built a home and production fruit farm. They transformed an open bean field into a vibrant and diverse landscape where their kids were raised.

