

# HLA HAPPENINGS

Issue 22-33 / September 2, 2022

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## WELCOME DR. CELINA GÓMEZ!



Celina's research and teaching efforts focus on the production of high-value plants in controlled environments. Before joining the faculty in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, she served as Assistant Professor in Controlled Environment Horticulture at the University of Florida. She is originally from Costa Rica but grew up in Guatemala and lived in Honduras, where she earned a BS in Agricultural Sciences from Zamorano University. She has a MS from the University of Arkansas where she specialized

in substrate research for nursery crops. Celina graduated from Purdue in 2014 with a PhD in horticulture. During that time she evaluated the use of LEDs for greenhouse tomato production. She is leading several projects that primarily belong to one of three main research areas:

1. indoor propagation of high-value crops, which focuses on using indoor farming technologies to increase rooting success of hard-to-root young plants;
2. urban gardening, which focuses on helping greenhouse growers produce high-quality, resilient plants that will thrive in the consumer environment;
3. lighting for indoor plant production, which focuses on evaluating plant responses to light quantity and quality using LEDs.

Celina will be developing new courses on greenhouse, hydroponic, and controlled-environment plant production. She's very enthusiastic to be back at Purdue and welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues who share similar interests!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO KIRBY KALBAUGH!



We congratulate **Kirby Kalbaugh** on a well-earned promotion that will have him spending his time supporting HLA and the College on research data needs. This promotion is in recognition of the exceptional support Kirby has provided to HLA and the College over the last

several years that have helped to advance our research mission. While we will miss having Kirby provide more general support in the department, we are delighted that his unique skill set is being recognized and valued.

## WELCOME CARLOS A. LÓPEZ MANZANO!



**Carlos A. López Manzano** is a visiting scholar who joined the Meyers' lab in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture. He has a B.Sc. in Environmental Science and Development from Zamorano University, Honduras, and a

B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from the University of El Salvador, El Salvador. During his visit, he will be involved in the design, maintenance and data analysis of weed science research. "I grew up as a farmer, so I am grateful to have this opportunity to explore the world of plants, AKA weeds, that challenge our crops production."

## "FLOWERS FOR COLOR" CLASS TRIP TO BALL HORTICULTURE

Last Saturday, the students in Mike Dana's "Flowers for Color" class spent the day in "The Gardens at Ball" at Ball Horticulture in West Chicago, IL, studying annual ornamental plants. Special thanks to Ball for allowing us to come on a Saturday to their world-class display garden and for providing beautiful weather!



## LIZ MAYNARD'S VEGETABLE TRIALS DONATED TO AREA FOOD PANTRIES

Watermelon and sweet corn from Liz Maynard's trials at Pinney Purdue loaded up for distribution to Westchester and Portage food pantries. It couldn't be done without the help of volunteer corn pickers!



## HLA WEED SCIENCE TEAM ATTENDED THE YCC CAREER DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM



The HLA Weed Science team attended the YCC Career Development Symposium hosted by the Younger Chemists Committee of the American Chemical Society Indiana Local Section at the Corteva Agriscience headquarters in Indianapolis.

They were able to learn about financial literacy in grad school, industry hiring practices, interview tips, soft skills, and CV building. They also had the chance to network with Corteva scientists.

Picture (left to right): Josué Cerritos, Carlos López Manzano, Jeanine Arana, Luis Medina and Emmanuel Cooper.

## NEW RESEARCH ARTICLE FROM DR. CELINA GÓMEZ

Dr. Celina Gómez and co-authors recently published a research article in HortScience, now available online:

Retana-Cordero, M., Humphrey, S., and Gómez, C. (2022). Effect of Radiation Quality and Relative Humidity on Intumescence Injury and Growth of Tomato Seedlings. HortScience 57, 10, 1257-1266, available from: < <https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI16712-22>>

## PETER HIRST PRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FRONTIERS OF FRUIT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

**Peter Hirst** gave a presentation (virtually) at the International Symposium on Frontiers of Fruit Research Conference at Nanjing Agricultural University, China. His presentation was "Future directions for fruit research - my perspective."

### Newsletters

- Facts for Fancy Fruits: <https://fff.hort.purdue.edu/>
- Vegetable Crops Hotline: <https://vegcropshotline.org/>
- Purdue Landscape Report: <https://www.purduelandscapeareport.org/>
- Greenhouse and Indoor Production of Specialty Crops: <https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/newsearch.asp?sub-CatID=425%20&CatID=10>

## HLA FALL SEMINAR: DR. JEONGIM KIM



Thursday, September at 3:30pm in PFEN 241 and via Zoom.

Dr. Jeongim Kim – Horticultural Sciences Department, University of Florida.

"Metabolic Networks Linking Plant Growth and Stress Adaption"

**Abstract:** Plants produce various metabolites derived from amino acids. Many of them, including plant hormones and defense compounds, play crucial roles in plant growth and development, and stress adaptation. Although each compound is produced through its biosynthetic pathway, multiple metabolic pathways are often connected. These metabolic networks enable plants to orchestrate disparate biological processes simultaneously. In my seminar, I will share some updates on metabolic routes to produce plant growth hormones using precursors of defense compounds and modifying flavonoids.

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