

HLA Happenings

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Purdue Turf Science Teams Shine at GCSAA Collegiate Quiz Bowl, Securing Top 6 Finishes



Four teams comprised of 17 undergraduate students from HLA-Turf Science competed last month in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Collegiate Quiz Bowl competition at the GCSAA annual meeting in San Diego, CA. This exam tests the students’ plant/seed/pest/equipment identification skills, and practical turfgrass calculations related to golf turf management. Students from Turf Science programs in the United States and Canada competed in this

year’s quiz bowl. The Purdue students had two teams place in the top 6 out of 79 total teams (4th and 6th place). The students placing were: Team #1: **Brody Piel, Hayden Wilson, Hayden Flick, Jake Tower** (who continued their tradition of team bonding with matching socks) and Team #2: **Mason Stephen, Gavin Kenning, Otto Hoehl and Bryce Thompson**. In addition to the quiz bowl, the students had the chance to attend educational sessions and the always popular golf industry trade show as well as networking with Golf Course Managers from across the world.



4th Place Team: Brody Piel, Hayden Wilson, Hayden Flick, Jake Tower



6th Place Team: Mason Stephen, Gavin Kenning, Otto Hoehl and Bryce Thompson

Yiwei Huang Presented at Indiana Sustainability and Resilience Conference (ISRC)



Assistant Professor **Yiwei Huang**, and three practicing professionals, Daniel Overbey (Director of Sustainability of Browning Day), Brett Schlachter (urban designer and landscape architect at Browning Day), and Alan Rosenwinkel (Senior associate at Rundell Ernstberger Associates) spoke about carbon reduction and sustainable site development strategies during a panel discussion at the Indiana Sustainability and Resilience Conference (ISRC) last Friday.



Anna Paltseva Lead Session at Indiana Small Farm Conference



At the Indiana Small Farm Conference 2025, **Anna Paltseva** joined Gabriel Filippelli from IU and Nathan Shoaf from Purdue Extension for the session “Lead Ahead: New Insights for Safer Soil Practices,” where they explored the challenges of legacy lead contamination in soils and its impact on food safety and farm sustainability. Their discussion highlighted how science-driven solutions and community engagement can help mitigate risks and promote healthier soils for small-scale and urban farmers.

Diverse Corn Belt Hosts “Reimagining Agricultural Diversity” Meeting



HLA’s **Aaron Thompson**, **Linda Prokopy**, **Liz Maynard**, **Brennan Radulski**, **Ishraq Awashra**, and **Emily Usher-DeaKyne** hosted **Diverse Corn Belt’s** “Reimagining Agricultural Diversity” meeting at Dulls Tree Farm in Thorntown, Indiana. With over 25 participants, we had lively discussions about agricultural policy and markets in Indiana.

New Purdue Ag Comm Story Spotlights Cristian Salinas' Research



Purdue University is collaborating with Hernán González-Osorio at **Cenicafé**, the National Coffee Research Center in Columbia, to enhance sustainable farming practices. **Cristian Salinas** (PhD/Hoagland Lab), a Purdue doctoral student from Colombia, is at the forefront of this initiative. Under the guidance of Professor **Lori Hoagland**, Salinas is researching the benefits of planting legumes between coffee rows. This method naturally enriches the soil with nitrogen, reducing the need for costly chemical fertilizers. Salinas emphasizes the cultural and economic importance of coffee in Colombia and aims to support small family farms by making coffee production more sustainable and cost-effective.

Read more about the research: [Coffee companions—why Colombian coffee farmers are planting legumes.](#)

Dr. Lori Hoagland Published New Paper

HLA Professor **Lori Hoagland** published a paper with collaborators in the Carrot Improvement for Organic Agriculture (CIOA) project (<https://eorganic.info/group/7645>). The paper titled 'Influence of Organic and Conventional Management Systems on Carrot Performance and Implications for Organic Plant Breeding' was published in the Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science <https://journals.ashs.org/jashs/view/journals/jashs/150/2/article-p65.xml>

Cristian Salinas and Jeanine Arana Are Finalists for Say-It-In-Six Competition

Cristian Salinas (PhD/Hoagland Lab) and **Jeanine Arana** (PhD/Meyers Lab) are finalists in the Say-it-In-Six competition. You can support them by voting at

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5zIGMdVOOpjwKq

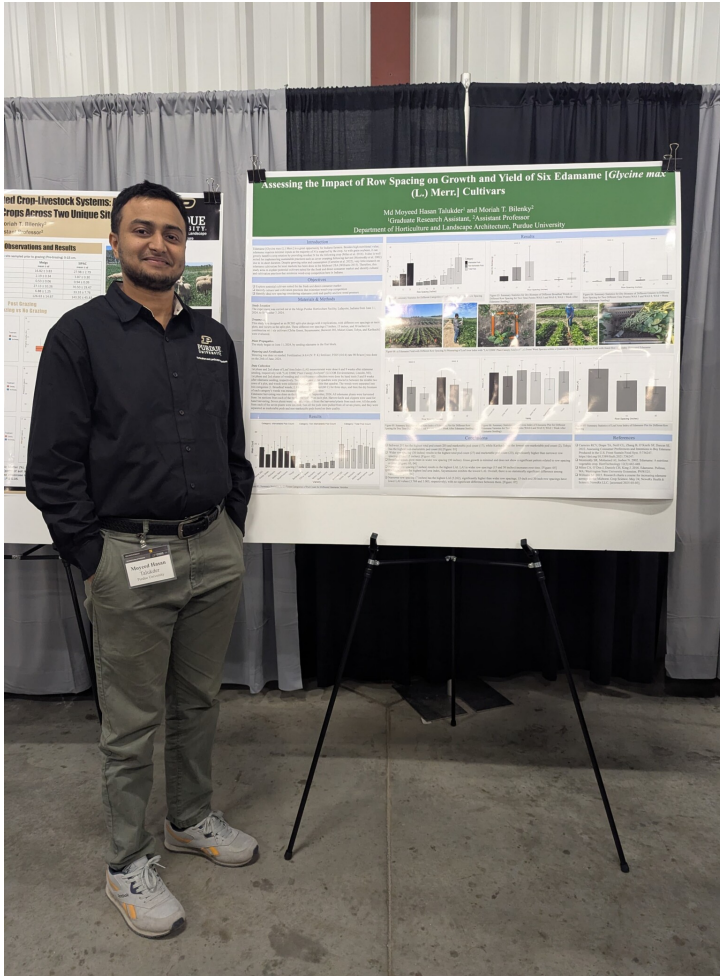


"Good Roots, Better Shoots, Antifungal Attributes" by Cristian Salinas



"Rain or Shine, Research Grows On" by Jeanine Arana

Moyeed Talukder Presented Poster at Indiana Small Farm Conference



Moyeed Talukder presented a poster featuring his field research "Assessing the Impact of Row Spacing on Growth and Yield of Six Edamame [Glycine max (L.) Merr.] Cultivars" at the 2025 Indiana Small Farm Conference.

Dough Much Fun: HLA's Pizza Party is a Cheesy Delight



Thanks to the fantastic efforts of HLA's Social Committee, our department recently enjoyed a delightful pizza lunch that brought everyone together. The cozy atmosphere was filled with laughter, engaging conversations, and, of course, delicious pizza with a variety of toppings to suit every taste.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for colleagues to connect, share stories, and unwind from their busy schedules. Whether you were a fan of classic pepperoni or adventurous with veggie-loaded slices, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

A big thank you to the Social Committee for organizing such a memorable and enjoyable event.



HLA Bowling Team

Our team **Good Thyme Gang** played against **River City Rascals** Monday afternoon at Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl for Week 24 of the Purdue Staff and Students league. We won all 8 points, maintaining 7th place.

In the Team Category: No placements.

In the Women's Category: **Ashley Adair** placed 2nd with scratch game scoring a 171 and placed 1st with scratch series scoring a 484. She also placed 3rd with handicap game scoring a 250 and placed 2nd with handicap series scoring a 721.

In the Men's Category: No placements.

There is still time! Join us for a night of bowling by contacting Alexandra Jewell. Any Purdue Staff, Faculty, or Student can participate. No experience necessary!!

Note: This bowling team is a casual league team for the department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture. This is NOT the competitive team for undergraduate students. Any prospective student looking to join the competitive team coordinated by the Purdue Intercollegiate Bowling Club should consult their website.

Newsletters:

Facts for Fancy Fruits: <https://fff.hort.purdue.edu>

Vegetable Crops Hotline: <https://vegcropshotline.org/>

Purdue Landscape Report: <https://www.purduelandscape.com/>

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