

# NC STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE



## GRADUATION CELEBRATION CEREMONY

Duke Energy Hall  
James B. Hunt Jr. Library  
N.C. State University, Centennial Campus

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE

*Processional, please stand*

**WELCOME..... Dr. Frank Louws**  
*Department Head, Professor*

**SPECIAL GUEST.....Dr. David Crouse**  
*Associate Dean and Director of Academic Programs  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*

## **AWARDING OF DEGREES**

**Ph.D., M.S., M.H.S.....Dr. Frank Louws (for Dr. Gina Fernandez)**  
*Director of Graduate Programs, Professor*

**B.S..... Ms. Jodi Driedger**  
*Director of Undergraduate Programs, Senior Lecturer*

## **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

*Cristian Collado* – Dr. Ricardo Hernandez (Chair)

Yield, quality, and Resource Use Efficiencies of *Cannabis sativa*  
Flowers, Plants, Cuttings, and Plug Plant Productions Affected by  
the rooting Hormone, CO<sub>2</sub>, and Dynamic and Static Light Levels

*Heeduk Oh* – Dr. Penelope Perkins-Veazie and Dr. Massimo Iorizzo  
(Co-Chairs)

Fruit Characteristics and Quantitative Trait Loci (QTLs) Associated  
with Quality Traits in Blueberry (*Vaccinium* spp.)

*Meghan Roche (In Absentia)* – Dr. Ricardo Hernandez and Dr.  
Wusheng Liu (Co-Chairs)

Gene Editing-assisted Generation of Delayed Bolting Lettuce  
(*Lactuca sativa* L.) for High Temperature Conditions

## **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY** (continued)

*Annie Vogel (In Absentia)* – Dr. Tom Kon and Dr. Gina Fernandez (Co-Chairs)

Modulating Apple Vegetative Growth and the Systemic Movement of *Erwinia amylovora* with Cultural and Chemical Management Practices

## **MASTER OF SCIENCE**

*Kyle Fahey* – Dr. Gina Fernandez (Chair)

Phenotypic Characterization and Marker Development for Non-Race 1 Verticillium Wilt Resistance in Two Tomato Recombinant Inbred Line Populations

*Samson Humphrey (In Absentia)* – Dr. Ricardo Hernandez (Chair)

Controlled Environment Strawberry Propagation: CO<sub>2</sub>, Light Intensity, and Daughter Plant Rooting Experiments

*Joy Johnson (In Absentia)* – Dr. Mark Hoffmann (Chair)

Evaluation of Yield, Fruit Chemistry, and Firmness of Seven Strawberry (*Fragaria xananassa*) Cultivars and Four NCSU Advanced Strawberry Selections in an Eastern North Carolina Greenhouse (Summer 2024)

*Trevor Pougnet (In Absentia)* – Dr. Hsuan Chen and Dr. Kedong Da (Co-Chairs)

Hexaploid Development and Fertility Assessment, De Novo Regeneration, and Biolistic Transformation of *Cannabis sativa* L. (Summer 2024)

## **MASTER OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE**

*Jasmine Gibson* – Dr. Anne Spafford (Chair)

Designing and Implementing a Regenerative Food System for the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department (Summer 2024)

*Ceres Hahnni (In Absentia)* – Dr. Wusheng Liu and Dr. Craig Yencho (Co-Chairs)

How Is the Shoot Apical Meristem Organized and Maintained in *Zea mays*? (Summer 2024)

**MASTER OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE** (continued)

*Debasish Paul (In Absentia)* – Dr. Melinda Knuth and Dr. Brian Jackson (Co-Chairs)

Sustainably Strengthening the Annual Bedding Plant Supply chain in the USA (Summer 2024)

*Katy Shook* – Dr. Anne Spafford and Dr. Melinda Knuth (Co-Chairs)  
PowerPlants: Assigning Performance Value to Landscape Plants (Summer 2024)

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE**

### **Brian Jackson** (Advisor)

*Morgan Bacon*

**Production Systems and  
Entrepreneurship**

*Simon Krukowski*

**Production Systems and  
Entrepreneurship**

*Vanessa Pitsenbarger*  
(In Absentia)

**Production Systems and  
Entrepreneurship**  
*\*Biological Sciences*

*Lauren Staley*

**Production Systems and  
Entrepreneurship**  
*\*Agricultural Business Mgmt*

### **Julie Sherk** (Advisor)

*Victoria VanAuken*

**Landscape Design, Gardens and  
Urban Environments**

### **Jodi Driedger** (Advisor)

*Amelia Brady*

**Plant Breeding and Biotechnology**  
*\*Business Administration*  
*\*Genetics*

*Jeremy Hodges*

**Landscape Design, Gardens and  
Urban Environments**  
*\*Biological Sciences*  
*\*Entomology*

*\* denotes minor*

*+ denotes second major*

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE**

*(continued)*

### **Jodi Driedger** (Advisor)

*Gage Lawrence*

**Landscape Design, Gardens and  
Urban Environments**

*Bella Schweitzer*

(In Absentia)

**Production Systems and  
Entrepreneurship**

*Lauren Turner*

**Production Systems and  
Entrepreneurship**

### **Hudson Ashrafi** (Advisor)

*Daria Slack*

(In Absentia)

**Plant Breeding and Biotechnology**

*+Plant Biology*

*\*Entomology*

*\* denotes minor*

*+ denotes second major*

**CERTIFICATE RECOGNITION**  
**Undergraduate Certificate**

**Mr. Issac Lewis, Advisor:**

*Katie Coll*

*Sam Selph*

*Adrian Van Essendelft*

**AWARDS**

**CLOSING COMMENTS .....Dr. Frank Louws**

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**GRADUATION WITH HONORS**

To be eligible for degree honor designations students must have completed at least two semesters and at least 30 credit hours at NC State University. Undergraduate degree honor designations are:

***Cum Laude*** (white sash) – GPA 3.25 through 3.499

***Magna Cum Laude*** (silver sash) – GPA 3.50 through 3.749

***Summa Cum Laude*** (gold sash) – GPA 3.75 and above

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**PI ALPHA XI**

The Iota Chapter of Pi Alpha Xi is the national Honor Society for Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture. Pi Alpha Xi members graduating today are recognized by Cerulean blue and Nile green honor cords, the official colors of the organization.

The Department of Horticultural Science thanks the Iota Chapter of Pi Alpha Xi for their generous contribution to the graduation ceremony.

**Associate of Applied Science in  
Horticultural Science Management**

*Jacob Graney*                      **Small Scale Farming**

*Victor Hammer*                      **Ornamentals and Landscape  
Technology**

*Ariel Parker*                      **Small Scale Farming**

*\*These students were recognized at the Agricultural Institute  
Graduation Ceremony on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.*