

# Eleni D. Pliakoni

---

Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources  
Kansas State University  
K-State Olathe  
22201 W. Innovation Dr.  
Olathe, KS 66061  
Lab web page: <https://olathe.k-state.edu/research/centers-institutes/postharvest-physiology-lab/>

Phone: (913) 307-7370  
FAX: (913) 541-1488  
Email: [epliakoni@ksu.edu](mailto:epliakoni@ksu.edu)

## EDUCATION

---

**Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Sciences** (Dec 2010)  
University of Thessaly, School of Agricultural Sciences, Greece  
**Master of Science in Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology** (Nov 2003)  
University of Crete, Department of Biology, Greece  
**Bachelor in Agriculture / Joint Master's of Science Degree** (Mar 2001)  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture and Viticulture, Greece

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

**Associate Professor** (Jul 2018 – present)  
**Urban Food Production and Postharvest Handling**  
*Dept of Horticulture and natural Resources, Kansas State University, Olathe, KS.*  
**Assistant Professor** (Mar 2013 – Jun 2018)  
**Urban Food Production and Postharvest Handling**  
*Dept of Horticulture and natural Resources, Kansas State University, Olathe, KS.*  
**Post Doctoral Research Associate** (Jan 2011-Dec 2013)  
*Dept of Horticultural Sciences, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL*  
**Research Assistant** (Jul 2006-Aug 2010)  
*School of Agricultural Sciences, University of Thessaly, Greece*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

**Kansas State University**  
HORT 794 Urban Food Systems (Spring 2016, 2018, 2020)  
HORT 795 Urban Agriculture Study Tour (Fall 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018,2019)  
HORT 725 Postharvest Handlings and Physiology of Horticultural crops (Spring 2015, 2017, 2019)  
HORT 791 Urban Agriculture (Fall 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016,2017, 2018, 2019,2020)  
HORT 790 Sustainable Agriculture (Fall 2013, 2015)  
HORT 793/FDSCI 630 Farm to Fork Produce Safety (Fall 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020)  
HORT 796 Professional Development in Urban Food Systems (F&S 2016,2017,2018,2019,2020)

**University of Thessaly, School of Agricultural Sciences, Greece** (2006 to 2010)  
**Teaching assistant** for Pomology (I and II) and Postharvest Technology of Horticultural crops courses

**Technological Educational Institute of Larissa, Greece**

**Teaching assistant** for:

Subtropical Pomology (Citrus - Olive) course (2009 to 2010)  
Systematic Botany course (2005 to 2010)

**Technological Educational Institute of Crete**

(2004 to 2005)

**Teaching assistant** for Irrigation Management and Plant Morphology courses

**University of Crete, Department of Biology, Greece**

(2002 to 2003)

**Teaching assistant** for Plant Physiology and Plant Structure courses

**GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORING**

---

- **Graduate Student Advising:** Primary advisor for
  - 12 M.S. Students – Amanda Lindahl (graduated), Kelly Gude (graduated), Mike Ryan, started Fall 2014, Jennifer Dennis started Fall 2015, Riley Sunday started Fall 2016, Joseph Rundquist started Fall 2017, Sara Hazen started spring 2018, Donna Fairhurst started spring 2108, Kristin Taylor started fall 2019 and Amrita Mukherjee started fall 2019, Rebecca Merkley started fall 2020, Yeqi Zhao started fall 2020
  - 3 PhD student – Tricia Jenkins started Summer 2018, Konstantinos Batziakas (graduated), Kelly Gude (graduated)
- **Committee member:** Lani Meyer M.S., started Fall 2013(graduated), Jacob Jenott M.S started Fall 2014 (graduated), David Loewen M.S., started Fall 2014 (graduated), Zachary Hoppenstedt M.S., started Fall 2015 (graduated), Myung Jin Lee Ph.D started Fall 2016, Joshua Maher PhDstarted Fall 2017 (graduated), Mackenzie Yeager MSstarted Spring 2019 (graduated).
- **Post Doc:** Mentoring 2 post-doctoral associate- Helena Chiebao Pondes from 2014 until November 2018, Konstantinos Batziakas Jan 2020- July 2020

**AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS**

---

- 2020 Excellent of Graduate Teaching Award of the College of Agriculture KSU (\$1,000)
- 2020 Greek Diaspora Fellowship Program from the Niarchos Foundation (\$10,000)
- 2017 Greek Diaspora Fellowship Program from the Niarchos Foundation (\$7,600)
- 2016 Academic Excellence Awards Program (\$6,000)

**GRANTS AWARDED**

---

**2019 USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)-PI** (\$71,000)  
Improving Quality and Reducing Losses in Specialty Fruit Crops through Storage Technologies  
**2019 Kansas Department of Agriculture-PI** (\$67,990)  
Improving yield, quality, and economic potential of strawberries growing under high tunnels in Kansas  
**2019 Kansas Department of Agriculture-co-PI** (\$54,202)  
Sustainable and environmental-friendly wash-water systems for improving the safety and quality of leafy greens  
**2019 Kansas Department of Agriculture-co-PI** (\$100,000)

Monitoring Soil moisture and irrigation requirements for industrial hemp production in Kansas  
**2019 USDA SARE, Professional Development Program-co-PI** (\$89,443)  
Capacity Building in Urban Food Systems in the North Central Region  
**2019 Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Mini Grants-PI** (\$4,000)  
Support the study tour to Michigan as part of the HORT 794 class  
**2019 K-State Olathe-PI** (\$150,000)  
Research Initiative award  
**2018 Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Mini Grants-PI** (\$3,000)  
Support the study tour to St. Louis, Missouri as part of the HORT 794 class  
**2017 USDA US Agency for International Development –PI** (\$500,000)  
Capacity Building on Produce Postharvest Management in Tanzania  
**2017 Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Mini Grants-PI** (\$5,000)  
Support the study tour to Hawaii as part of the HORT 794 class  
**2017 Kansas Department of Agriculture-co-PI** (\$70,086)  
Effective Packing Practices to Control Postharvest Diseases in Small Fruit Crops  
**2016 USDA Higher Education - Institution Challenge Grants Program-co-PI**  
Linking Inter-disciplinary Students to a Complex Food System (\$135,000)  
**2016 USDA Specialty Crops Research Initiative Coordinated Ag Project (CAP)- co-PI**  
(\$3,276,666)  
Growing new roots: Grafting to enhance resiliency in U.S. vegetable industries,  
**2016 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning mini-grant, College of Agriculture, Kansas State University –PI** (\$7,225)  
Examining Student Learning Outcomes from an Urban Food Systems Study tour class - Phase II  
**2016 US food and Drug Administration-co-PI** (16,000)  
Strategy for Successful Implementation of FSMA in the North Central Region through Adoption of a Systems approach and stakeholder engagement framework  
**2015 Global Food Systems Innovation Program, Kansas State University-PI** (\$39,169)  
An international symposium on urban food systems: Changing the way we think about global food security  
**2015 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning mini-grant, College of Agriculture, Kansas State University –PI** (\$ 5,200)  
Examining student learning outcomes from an Urban Food Systems study tour in the U.S  
**2015 North Central Region-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education –co-PI**  
(\$195,968)  
Strengthening organic sweet potato propagation systems in the North Central Region  
**2015 Center for Engagement and Community Development, Kansas State University-co-PI**  
(\$9,300)  
Engaging Kansas produce growers in strengthening on-farm produce safety and quality education and outreach  
**2015 USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)-co-PI** (\$499,326)  
Improving nutritive and health-promoting qualities of vegetables by manipulating light characteristics in high tunnel production  
**2014 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning mini-grant, College of Agriculture, Kansas State University –PI** (\$ 3,000)  
Evaluating the effectiveness of co-teaching and videoconferencing for a new course “Farm to Fork Produce Safety  
**2014 USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)-PI** (\$981,244)

Postharvest physical treatments to reduce losses of organic and other locally-grown produce while improving quality and extending shelf life	
<b>2014 Kansas Department of Agriculture-PI</b>	(\$67,815)
Improving safety, quality and shelf-life of locally grown vegetables in Kansas	
<b>2014 Kansas Department of Agriculture- co-PI</b>	(\$30,387)
Development of an instrument to document economic impact of fruit and vegetable growers in Kansas	
<b>2013 Kansas State University-PI</b>	(\$1,200)
Proposal for the ADVANCE Distinguished Lecture Series	
<b>2013 Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City - Collaborator</b>	(\$188,700)
Feasibility study for the Greater Kansas City Food Hub	
<b>In-Kind Gifts/Donations</b>	
<b>Waters Corporation</b>	(\$81,162)
Donation of Ultra Performance Liquid Chromatography (UPLC) unit	
<b>TetraClean Systems LLC”</b>	(\$2,400)
Donation of 2 ozone generator	

#### **LIST OF RECENT PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

---

- Gude, K., H. Stanley, C.L. Rivard, B. Cunningham, Q. Kang, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2021. Quality of day-neutral strawberries grown in a high tunnel system. *Scientia Horticulturae* 275, 19726
- Gude, K.M., C.B., Rajashekar, B., Cunningham, Q., Kang, W., Wang, M., Lee, C.L., Rivard and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2020. Effect of High Tunnel Coverings on Antioxidants of Breaker and Light Red Tomatoes at Harvest and during Ripening. *Agronomy* 10, 1639.
- Batziakas, K.G., S. Singh, K. Ayub, Q. Kang, J. Brecht, C. L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2020. Reducing Post-harvest Losses of Spinach Stored in Non-Optimum Temperatures with the Implementation of Passive Modified Atmosphere Packaging. *HortScience* 55 (3): 326-335
- Batziakas, K.G., C.L. Rivard, H. Stanley and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2020. Reducing Pre-harvest Food Losses in Spinach with the Implementation of High Tunnels. *Scientia Horticulturae* 265:109268
- Batziakas, K.G., H., Stanley, A.G., Batziakas, J.K Brecht, C. L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2020. Reducing postharvest food losses in organic spinach with the implementation of high tunnel production systems. *Agron. Sustain. Dev.* 40, 42
- Trinetta, V., A. McDaniel, K.G. Batziakas, U. Yucel, L. Nwadike, **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2020. Antifungal Packaging Film to Maintain Quality and Control Postharvest Diseases in Strawberries. *Antibiotics* 9, 618.
- Stanley, H., K.G. Batziakas, S.E. Gragg, C.L. Rivard, **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2020. Impact of modified atmosphere packaging and ozonated water on the shelf life, quality, and safety of vegetables stored at non optimum temperatures. *J. Postharvest Technol.*, 2020, 08 (3): 79-95
- Batziakas, K.G., M. Swaney-Stueve, M. Talavera, C.L. Rivard, E.D. Pliakoni. 2019. Descriptive Analysis and Consumer Acceptability of Locally and Commercially-Grown Spinach. *J. Food Sci.* 84 (2): 2261-2268
- Hoppenstedt, Z.N., J.J. Griffin, **E.D. Pliakoni**. and Cary L. Rivard. 2019. Yield, Quality, and Performance of Organic Sweetpotato Slips Grown in High Tunnel Compared to Open Field. *HortTechnology* 29 (2):140-150

- Gude, K., C.L. Rivard, S.E. Gragg, K. Oxley, P. Xanthopoulos and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2018. Day-neutral Strawberries for High Tunnel Production in the Central United States. *HortTechnology* 28(2):154-165.
- Meyer, L.J., M.M. Kennelly, **E.D. Pliakoni**, and C.L. Rivard. 2017. Leaf removal reduces scion adventitious root formation and plant growth of grafted tomato. *Sientia Horticulturae* 214 :147-157.
- Nanos, G.D., **E.D. Pliakoni**, E. Kalorizou, and A. Vatsanidou, 2013. Leaf gas exchange and leaf characteristics differences between two almond cultivars. *Fruit Growing Research Journal* XXXIX: 84-89
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, G.D. Nanos and M.I. Gil, 2010. Two Seasonal Study of the Influence of Regulated Deficit Irrigation and Reflective Mulch on Individual and Total Phenolic Compounds of Nectarines at Harvest and during Storage. *J Agric Food Chem*: 58 (22) 11783–11789
- Skopelitis, D.S., N.V. Paranychianakis, K.A. Paschalidis, **E.D. Pliakonis**, I.D. Delis, D.I. Yakoumakis, A Kouvarakis, E. Stephanou, A.K. Papadakis, K.A. Roubelakis-Angelakis 2006. Abiotic stress generates ROS that signal expression of anionic glutamate dehydrogenases to form glutamate for proline synthesis in tobacco and grapevine. *Plant Cell* 18:2767-2781

#### LIST OF RECENT PEER-REVIEWED PROCEEDING ARTICLES

---

- Loewen, D.E., **E.D. Pliakoni**, and C.L. Rivard. 20XX. Evaluating Capsicum and Solanum rootstocks for fresh market bell pepper production. *Acta Hort.* (in press)
- Ertle, J., C. Kubota and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 20XX. Transplant quality and growth of grafted and non-grafted watermelon seedlings as affected by chilling during simulated long-distance transportation. *Acta Hort.* (in press)
- Meyer, L.J., H. Chiebao, **E.D. Pliakoni**, M.M. Kennelly, K.A. Garrett, and C.L. Rivard. 201X. The role of grafting for local tomato production in high tunnels. *Acta Hort.* (in press)
- Pontes-Chiebao, H., Jacob R. Jenott, Daniel A. Unruh, Sara E. Gragg Cary L. Rivard, **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2018. Postharvest treatments to improve quality, safety and storage life, at non-optimum temperatures of locally grown vegetables in Kansas. *Acta Hort* 1194: 1353-1360.
- Gude, K., C.L. Rivard, H.P. Chiebao, M. Swaney-Stueve and **E.D. Pliakoni**, 2018. Pre-harvest Effects on Postharvest Quality of Spring-Planted, Day-Neutral Strawberries in High Tunnels. *Acta Hort* 1194: 91-98.
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, C.A. Shoemaker, R.R. Janke and C.L. Rivard. 2016. Building a new graduate program: A model for collaboration between institutions and industry. *Acta Hort* 1126:187-192.
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, D.J. Huber, S.A. Sargent, and J.K. Brecht. 2016. Using chlorophyll fluorescence as an indicator of brown stain (CO<sub>2</sub> injury) in Romaine lettuce. *Acta Hort* 1120:151-156.
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, D.J. Huber, S.A. Sargent, and J.K. Brecht. 2015. Physical and biochemical changes in broccoli that may assist in decision-making related to international marine transport in air or CA/MA. *Acta Hort* 1071: 951-957.
- Deltsidis, A.I., **E.D. Pliakoni**, E.A. Baldwin, J. Bai, A. Plotto and J.K. Brecht. 2015. Tomato flavor changes at chilling and non-chilling temperatures as influenced by controlled atmospheres. *Acta Hort* 1071: 703-709.

- **Pliakoni E.D.**, and G.D. Nanos, 2012. Effects of reflective mulch on leaf physiology and fruit quality and storability in olives cv. Konservolea. *Acta Hort.*949:385-390
- Pastopoulos, S., **E.D. Pliakoni** and G.D. Nanos. 2012. Kaolin sprays and individual fruit bagging effects on quince fruit quality. S06.299. *Acta Hort.* 940:381-385
- Deltsidis, A.I., **E.D. Pliakoni** and J.K. Brecht. 2011. Establishing CO<sub>2</sub> tolerance of pink tomatoes in MAP at elevated handling temperatures. *Proc. Fla. State Hort. Soc.* 124:241–245
- **Pliakoni E.D.**, and G.D. Nanos, 2011. Influence of deficit irrigation and reflective mulch on ‘Konservolea’ olive leaf physiology during the growing period. *Acta Hort.* 888:199-204
- Abusafieh, D., **E.D. Pliakoni** and G.D. Nanos, 2011. Ozone and salinity combined stress effects on olive leaf antioxidant enzyme activities. *Acta Hort.* 888:127-134
- Rinaldi, R., G.D. Nanos, **E.D. Pliakoni** M.L. Amodio and G. Colelli, 2011. Effect of Deficit Irrigation on Fruit and Oil Quality of ‘Konservolea’ Olives. S08.267. *Acta Hort.* 924: 445-451
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, D. Daenas and G.D. Nanos. 2010. Total phenol content and chilling injury of normally- or deficit-irrigated fresh green olives during storage. *Acta Hort.* 877: 209-214
- Deltsidis, A.I., **E.D. Pliakoni** and G.D. Nanos. 2010. Quality changes of temperate-zone grown Ruby Star grapefruit during storage at chilling and non-chilling temperatures. *Acta Hort.* 877: 941-945
- **Pliakoni E.D.**, and G.D. Nanos.2010 Deficit irrigation and reflective mulch effects on peach and nectarine fruit quality and storage ability. *Acta Hort.* 877: 215-222.
- Nanos, G.D., **E.D. Pliakoni**, D. Daenas, M.L. Amodio, and G. Colelli. 2008. Effect of deficit irrigation on olive and olive oil quality during fruit storage. *Option Mediterraneennes A84: 77- 83.*
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, H. Kalorizou and G.D. Nanos. 2008. Peach leaf physiology and irrigation water and light availability. *Option Mediterraneennes A84: 61- 67.*

## LIST OF RECENT NO REFEREED PUBLICATION

---

### Oral presentations:

- Jenkins, T.M., C. Kubota, C.L. Rivard and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2020. Rootstock Effect on Yield and Fruit Quality of ‘Tasti Lee’ Tomatoes Grown in a High Tunnel. *American Society for Horticultural Sciences Conference*, 10-13 August, Virtual
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, K. Gude, K. G. Batziakas, C.L. Rivard, S.A. Sargent, T.J. Msogoya and R.O. Majubwa. 2019. Capacity Building on Produce Postharvest Management in Tanzania. *American Society of Horticultural Science*, 21-25 July, Las Vegas, NV
- Gude, K., C.L. Rivard, C.B. Rajashekar and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2019. The impact of light on yield and nutritional quality of lettuce grown in high tunnels. *American Society for Horticultural Sciences Conference*, 21-25 July, Las Vegas, NV
- Batziakas, K., S. Singh, H. Stanley, C.L. Rivard, J.K. Brecht, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2019. Passive Modified Atmosphere Packaging Can Extend The Shelf Life Of Spinach Stored In Non-Optimum Temperatures. *American Society for Horticultural Science Conference*, 21-25 July, Las Vegas, NV
- Rundquist, J., J. Griffin, C.L. Rivard and **E.D Pliakoni**. 2019. Identifying Optimum Storage and Handling Conditions for Sweetpotato Slips. *American Society for Horticultural Science Conference*, 21-25 July, Las Vegas, NV

- Rivard, C. L., **E. D. Pliakoni**, L.J. Meyer, D.E. Loewen, R.Poudel, and K. A. Garrett. 2019. The role of grafting for local tomato production in high tunnels. *International Vegetable Grafting Symposium*, 16 July, Charlotte, NC
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, C.L. Rivard and C.A. Shoemaker. 2018. Home Country Urban Food Systems Study Tour-Enhancing Student's Experiential Learning. *2018 Urban Food Systems Symposium*, 8-11 August, Minneapolis, MN
- Batziakas, K., H. Pontes Chiebao, C.L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2018. Reducing Pre-Harvest and Postharvest Losses in Spinach through the Implementation of High Tunnels. *XXX International Horticultural Congress*, 12-17 August, Istanbul, Turkey,
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, C.L. Rivard and C.A. Shoemaker. 2018. Enhancing Student's Experiential Learning with a Home Country Urban Food Systems Study Tour. *American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting*, July 31-August 3 Washington DC
- Batziakas, K., H. Pontes Chiebao, C.L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2017. Production of Organic Tomatoes in High Tunnels Reduces Pre- and Postharvest Losses. *HortScience* 52(9) S264
- Gude, K.M., H. Pontes-Chiebao, C.L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2017. Pre-harvest Effects on Postharvest Quality of Spring-planted, Day-neutral Strawberries in a High Tunnel System. *HortScience* 52(9) S252
- Hoppenstedt, Z.N., J.J. Griffin, **E.D. Pliakoni**, M.R. Taylor, and C.L. Rivard 2017. High Tunnel Seed Systems for Organic Sweetpotato in the Great Plains Region. *American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting* 19-22 September, Waikoloa, Hawaii.
- Gude, K., R. Dostal, C.A. Shoemaker, C.L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2016. Enhancing graduate student experience and professional networks through an Urban Food Systems study tour. *HortScience* 51(9) S265
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, M.N. Ryan, H. Pontes Chiebao, L. Meyer, and C.L. Rivard. Reducing postharvest losses through the implementation of high tunnel systems. 2015 *Second International Conference on Agriculture in an Urbanizing society* 14-17 September, Rome, Italy.
- Helena Pontes Chiebao, Jacob R. Jenott, Daniel A. Unruh, Sara E. Gragg Cary L. Rivard , **Pliakoni, E.D.**, 2016. Postharvest treatments to improve quality, safety and storage life, at non-optimum temperatures of locally grown vegetables in Kansas. *VIII International Postharvest Symposium*, 21-24 June Cartagena, Spain.
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, and C.L. Rivard. 2016. Increasing access to local food by extending shelf life of fresh fruits and vegetable. 2016 Urban Food Systems Symposium
- Pontes-Chiebao, H., J.A. Page, J. Jenott, D. Unruh, S.E. Gragg, C.L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2015. Improving shelf life, quality and safety of locally grown vegetables in Kansas. *American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting*, 3-7 August, New Orleans, USA.
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, S.E. Gragg, C.L. Rivard and R.A. Collins. 2015. Developing a new multidisciplinary course that incorporates videoconferencing as a tool to connect classrooms at two locations. *American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting* 3-7 August, New Orleans, USA.
- Gude, K., C.L. Rivard, K. Oxley, H. Pontes Chiebao and **E.D. Pliakoni**. Pre harvest effects on postharvest quality of strawberries grown in high tunnels. *American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting* 3-7 August 2015, New Orleans, USA.

- Shoemaker, C.A, R. Janke C.L. Rivard and **E.D Pliakoni**. 2014. Building a New Graduate Program: A Model for Collaboration between Institutions and Industry. *International Society of Horticulture Congress*, 17-23 August, Brisbane, Australia.

Poster presentations:

- Jenkins, T.M., P. Abeli and E.D. Pliakoni 2020. Analysis of cannabinoids in *Cannabis sativa* L. using UPLC-PDA and observations from 2019 voluntary testing of industrial hemp in Kansas. *National Hemp Conference*, 1 July-5 August 2020, Virtual
- Gude, K.M., C.L. Rivard, C.B. Rajashekar and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2020. The Impact of Different High Tunnel Covering on Microclimate, Yield, and Phenolic Accumulation of Red and Green Leaf Lettuce. *American Society for Horticultural Sciences Conference*, 10-13 August, Virtual
- Griffin, J.J., C. Rivard, E. D. Pliakoni and E. Wyatt. 2020. High Tunnel Production of Cannabidiol (CBD) Hemp in Kansas. *American Society for Horticultural Sciences Conference*, 10-13 August, Virtual
- Jenkins, T.M., P. Abeli and **E.D. Pliakoni** 2020. Analysis of Five Major Cannabinoids of industrial Hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.) and Observations from 2019 Third-Party Testing in Kansas. *American Society for Horticultural Sciences Conference*, 10-13 August, Virtual
- Majubwa, R.O., T.J. Msogoya, S. A. Sargent, C.L. Rivard and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2019. The Container Mini-Pack house: Affordable demonstration facility for produce sorting, packaging and storage of fresh produce for small/medium scale farmers. *American Society for Horticultural Sciences Conference*, 21-25 July, Las Vegas, NV
- Artavia, K., C. Shoemaker, C. Rivard, J. Favor, **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2019. Determination of Soft Skills Expected for Professionals in the Urban Food System Industry. *American Society for Horticultural Sciences Conference*, 21-25 July, Las Vegas, NV
- Maher, J.M., K.S. Stull, **E.D. Pliakoni** and S.E Gragg. 2019. Sodium Bisulfate and Peroxyacetic Acid Reduce *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 Populations on Fresh Romaine When Applied Alone or in Combination as a Postharvest Wash. *International Association of Food Protection*, July 21-24, Louisville, KY
- Jenkins, T., C.L. Rivard, C. Kubota and **E.D. Pliakoni** 2019. The role of ethylene in long-distance transportation of grafted vegetable seedlings. *International Vegetable Grafting Symposium* 16 July, 2019. Charlotte, NC (poster presentation).
- Maher, J.M., K.S. Stull, **E.D. Pliakoni** and S.E Gragg. 2019. Sodium Bisulfate and Peroxyacetic Acid Reduce *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 Populations on Fresh Romaine When Applied Alone or in Combination as a Postharvest Wash. *Global Food Systems Focus Day*, March 7. Manhattan, KS (poster presentation).
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, Konstantinos Batziakas, Marianne Swaney-Stueve, Martin Talavera. 2018. Meeting Consumer Preferences With Locally Grown Spinach in a High Tunnel System. *Urban Food Systems Symposium (UFSS) 2018* in Minneapolis, MN, August 8-11, 2018
- Gude, K., C.L. Rivard, H.P. Chiebao, M. Swaney-Stueve and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2018. Consumer Preference of Locally-produced Strawberries Grown in High Tunnels. *Urban Food Systems Symposium (UFSS) 2018* in Minneapolis, MN, August 8-11, 2018
- Batziakas, K., M. Swaney-Stueve, M. Talavera, C.L. Rivard, **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2018. Descriptive analysis and consumer acceptability of locally grown and commercially grown spinach. *XXX International Horticultural Congress*, Istanbul, Turkey, 8/12-17, 2018
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, K. Batziakas, M. Swaney-Stueve, M. Talavera. 2018. Consumer Acceptability of Locally and Commercially Grown Spinach. *American Society for*



- Horticultural Science Annual Meeting in Washington DC, July 31-August 3, 2018
- Hoppenstedt, Z.N., J.J. Griffin, Cary L. Rivard, **E.D. Pliakoni** and Mykel R. Taylor. 2018. Organic Sweetpotato Slip Yield and Quality from a Central United States High Tunnel System. American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting in Washington DC, July 31-August 3, 2018
  - Lee, M., S. Sumpter, **E.D. Pliakoni**, C. Rivard and C.B. Rajashekar. 2018. Supplemental UV Affects Plant Growth and Nutritional Quality of Lettuce, Spinach and Tomato. American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting in Washington DC, July 31-August 3, 2018
  - Gude, K., C.L. Rivard, C.B. Rajashekar and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2018. The Impact of Light on Yield and Quality of Tomato and Lettuce Grown in High Tunnels. American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting in Washington DC, July 31-August 3, 2018
  - Lee, M., S. Sumpter, J. Xu, **E.D. Pliakoni**, C.L. Rivard, W. Wang and C.B. Rajashekar. 2018. Effect of Spectral Quality of Light on Growth and Accumulation of Phytochemicals in Lettuce. American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting in Washington DC, July 31-August 3, 2018
  - Hoppenstedt, Z.N., J.J. Griffin, C.L. Rivard, **E.D. Pliakoni** and M. R. Taylor. 2018. Strengthening Organic Sweetpotato Propagation Systems in the North Central Region. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Conference. Our Farms, Our Future Conference: Envisioning the Next 30 Years of Sustainable Agriculture. April 3-5, 2018.
  - Sasse, A., K. Gude, C.L. Rivard, **E.D. Pliakoni**, M. Talavera 2018 Effect of light characteristics on the sensory properties of red lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*). IFT Chicago IL, July 15-18, 2018
  - Batziakas K., and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2017 Teaching a Plant Science Class in an Interdisciplinary Environment. *HortScience* 52(9) S313
  - Gude, K.M., M. Swaney-Stueve, C. L. Rivard and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2017. Consumer Test of Spring-Planted, Day-Neutral Strawberries Grown in a High Tunnel System. *HortScience* 52(9) S253
  - **Pliakoni, E.D.**, R. Dostal, D. Loewen, C.L. Rivard, and C. Shoemaker. 2017. Examining Student Learning Outcomes from an Urban Food Systems Study Tour in the United States. 2017 Teaching Professor Conference: Cutting-Edge Learning of Exceptional Educators in St. Louis, June 1-4<sup>th</sup> 2017.
  - **Pliakoni, E.D.**, C. L. Rivard, J. K Brecht, J. A. Bartz and X. Zhao. 2017. Reducing food losses of locally grown produce by optimizing pre- and postharvest methods. Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SAWG) Conference, Lexington, KY, January 25-28, 2017
  - Rivard, C.L., **E. D. Pliakoni**, and C. A. Shoemaker. 2017. Addressing food security with a graduate program in urban food systems. SAWG Conference, Lexington, KY, January 25-28, 2017
  - Rivard, C.L., K. Oxley, H. Chiebao, S. Gragg, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2016. The Koolkat: A demonstrational mobile cooling unit to support the development of small and/or urban farms. *HortScience* 51(9) S113
  - Pontes-Chiebao, H., L. Meyer, C.L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2016. Reducing losses in organic spinach and tomato through the implementation of high tunnels. *HortScience*. 51(9) S111
  - Oxley, K., C.L. Rivard, J. Favor, S. Gragg, L. Nwadike, C. Shoemaker, and **E.D Pliakoni**. 2016. The 2016 Urban Food Systems Symposium: A professional meeting to change the

way we think about global food security.

- Gude, K., C.L. Rivard, H.P. Chiebao, M. Swaney-Stueve<sup>2</sup> and **E.D. Pliakoni**, 2016. Pre-harvest Effects on Postharvest Quality of Spring-Planted, Day-Neutral Strawberries in High Tunnels. VIII International Postharvest Symposium Cartagena, Spain, 21-24 June 2016.
- Jenott, J., H. Pontes Chiebao, J.A. Page, D. Unruh, S.E. Gragg, C.L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2016. Evaluating the Efficacy of Ozone and Modified Atmosphere Packaging at Extending the Lag Phase of Native Microflora on Vegetables Stored at Non-Optimum Temperatures. 2016 International Association for Food Protection.
- Jenott, J., H. Pontes Chiebao, D. Unruh, S.E. Gragg, C.L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2016. A preliminary investigation into the efficacy of potassium bisulfate as a pre-harvest intervention to control the foodborne pathogen surrogates *Listeria innocua* and *Escherichia coli* on lettuce. 2016 International Association for Food Protection.
- Rivard, C.L., K. Oxley, M.M. Kennelly, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2016. Integrating high tunnel production to provide resiliency for urban and peri-urban supply chains. 2016 Urban Food Systems Symposium
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, C. L. Rivard, J. K Brecht, J. A. Bartz and X. Zhao 2016. Reducing food losses of locally grown produce by optimizing pre- and postharvest methods 2016 Urban Food Systems Symposium
- Rivard, C.L., K. Oxley, H. Chiebao, S. Gragg, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2016. The Koolkat: A demonstrational mobile cooling unit to support the development of small and/or urban farms. 2016 Urban Food Systems Symposium
- Gude, K., R. Dostal, C.A. Shoemaker, C.L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2016. Developing an Urban Food System Study Tour to Enhance Student's Experiential Learning. 2016 Urban Food Systems Symposium
- Oxley, K., C.L. Rivard, J. Favor, S. Gragg, L. Nwadike, C. Shoemaker, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2016. The 2016 Urban Food Systems Symposium: A professional meeting to change the way we think about global food security. 2016 Urban Food Systems Symposium
- Pontes-Chiebao, H., S.E. Gragg, C.L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2016. Use of passive Modified Atmosphere Packaging at a non-optimum temperature to improve shelf life and quality of locally grown vegetables. 2016 Urban Food Systems Symposium
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, S. Gragg, and R-A. Collins. Opportunities and challenges of videoconference as a course delivery tool, Kansas State University. *The teaching Professor Technology Conference* 2-4 October 2015, New Orleans, USA.
- Rivard, C.L., L. Meyer, **E.D. Pliakoni**, and M. Kennelly. The effects of leaf removal on adventitious root formation and plant growth of grafted tomatoes. *American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting* 3-7 August 2015, New Orleans, USA.
- Ryan, M.N., H. Pontes Chiebao, L. Meyer, C.L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. The effect of high tunnel production on pre- and postharvest losses of fresh produce. *American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting* 3-7 August 2015, New Orleans, USA.
- Rivard, C.L., M. Fusselman, C.A. Shoemaker, **E.D. Pliakoni**, M. Bates, C. Creed, and K. Nixon. Growing growers: Facilitating the development of new farmers in order to strengthen local food systems. *World Food System Conference 2015 "Tackling World Food System Challenges"* 20-26 June 2015 Ascona, Switzerland. (poster presentation)
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, C.A. Shoemaker, R.R. Janke, and C.L. Rivard. Training the next generation of agricultural educators to grow local food systems in urban areas. *World Food System Conference 2015 "Tackling World Food System Challenges"* 20-26 June 2015 Ascona, Switzerland.

- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, C. A. Shoemaker, R. Janke, and C.L. Rivard. Establishing a New Graduate Program in a Multidisciplinary Campus. *American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting*, 28-31 July 2014, Orlando FL.
- H. Pontes Chiebao, L.J. Meyer, C.L. Rivard and **E.D. Pliakoni**. Shelf Life and Quality of High Tunnel and Open-Field Tomatoes. *American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting*, 28-31 July 2014, Orlando FL.
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, C.A Shoemaker, R. Janke and C.L. Rivard. Extending the Classroom through Videoconferencing: Challenges and Opportunities. *National Sustainable Agriculture Education Association Conference*, 3-6 August 2014, Raleigh NC.
- **Pliakoni, E.D.**, D.J. Huber, S.A. Sargent, and J.K. Brecht. Using Chlorophyll Fluorescence as an Indicator of Brown Stain (CO<sub>2</sub> Injury) in Romaine Lettuce. *International Society of Horticulture Congress*, 17-23 August 2014, Brisbane, Australia.
- **Pliakoni, E .D.**, D.J. , Huber, S. A., Sargent and J. K., Brecht, 2013. Application of two different MAP systems in order to prolong the shelf life of Romaine lettuce during marine shipment. *ASHS Annual Conference*, 22-25 August 2013, Palm Desert, California, USA
- **Pliakoni, E .D.**, and G.D. Nanos 2013 Differential Effects of Deficit Irrigation and Reflective Mulch Application On Two Clingstone Peach Cultivars. *ASHS Annual Conference*, 22-25 August 2013, Palm Desert, California, USA
- **Pliakoni, E .D.**, A. I. Deltisidis and J.K. Brecht, 2012. Does prior storage in air at optimum or higher temperature influence the potential benefit of controlled atmosphere for broccoli in simulated marine shipments? *ASHS Annual Conference*, July 31-August 3, 2012, Miami, Florida, USA

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

---

Brecht, J.K., I. Uysal, M.C.N. Nunes, C.A. Sims, A. Odabasi, **E.D. Pliakoni**, J.P. Émond, G. Bennett, J.L. Wells. 2014. Remote environmental monitoring and diagnostics in the perishables supply chain: Phase II. Final Project Report to U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center, Combat Ration Research and Development. Contract W911QY-11-C-0011. 354 p.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

---

Brecht, J.K., **E.D. Pliakoni**, K. Batziakas 2020. The Impact of Temperature on atmosphere requirements and effects: The limits of design and utility of CA/MA/MAP. In M. Gil and R. Beaudry (Eds.) *Controlled and Modified Atmosphere for Fresh and Fresh-Cut Produce* (pp.147-166) San Diego, CA: Elsevier

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

---

### Workshops/Short courses

- **Gaining Ground Webinar Series**  
[https://olathe.k-state.edu/community/events/gaining\\_ground/](https://olathe.k-state.edu/community/events/gaining_ground/)

As part of the of the professional development program (PDP) grant from North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture and Research & Education (SARE), “Capacity Building in Urban Food Systems”. Started November 2019.

- **Training for Fruit and Vegetable growers in Tanzania**  
Provided training and training materials in almost 400 growers in 8 different villages in the areas of Morogoro and Iringa in Tanzania. We train the growers in postharvest handlings as part of the “Capacity Building on Produce Postharvest Management in Tanzania” project supported by the Horticulture Innovation Lab with funding from the US Agency for International Development. January and May 2019.
- **Developed and delivered a 5 days training to trainers’ short course in Postharvest Handling of horticultural crops in Morogoro, Tanzania** as part of the Capacity Building on Produce Postharvest Management in Tanzania project. May 2018
- **Developed and delivered a short course in Urban and Peri-Urban Food Production** for Food Security and Human Health with fellowship I received from the Greek Diaspora Fellowship Program (GDFP). The course was offered March 2017 in Univ. of Thessaly Greece and we had more than 80 participants.
- **Invited to give a seminar** with title “Postharvest Handling in Produce” for the *Growing Growers* program May 2014, June 2015, my graduate student in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2020 (around 20 participants each year).
- **Provided a demonstration on measuring quality and other postharvest handling techniques** as part of the Vegetable field day at the K-State Olathe Horticulture Research and Extension Center with my Post Doc Helena Chiebao, August 2015.  
Participated in the K-State Research and Extension Horticulture Program Focus Team, June 2014 in Kansas City with focus on Local Food Systems.
- **Developed extension and education postharvest material** as part of the Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program (Hort CRSP) of the United States Agency for International Development (US AID) and the University of California, Davis. The international extension education presentations I created were on the topic, “Types of packaging for fresh horticultural crops – pros & cons.”

### Presentations

- **Pliakoni, E.D.** 2020. Cannabinoid Testing for Hemp Growers in Kansas. K-State Hemp Conference, 4 February, Wichita KS (oral presentation)
- **Invited speaker for the Great Plains Growers Conference, St. Joseph MO:**
  - **Pliakoni, E.D.**, and T. Jenkins. 2020. Cannabinoid Testing for Hemp Growers. Great Plains Growers Conference 09-11 January 2020. St Joseph, MO
  - **Pliakoni, E.D.** 2018. Postharvest Handling of berries. Great Plains Growers Conference January 11-13, 2018 St. Joseph, MO
  - **Pliakoni, E.D.** 2015. Updates of the “Postharvest physical treatments to reduce losses of organic and other locally-grown produce” project as part of High Tunnel Workshop. Great Plains Growers Conference January 8-10, 2015 St. Joseph, MO
  - **Pliakoni, E.D.** 2015. Basic postharvest handling for fresh produce, as part of the Beginning Organic section. Great Plains Growers Conference January 8-10, 2015 St. Joseph, MO
- **Graduate students’ presentations at the Great Plains Growers Conference, St. Joseph, MO:**
  - Gude K., C.L. Rivard, C.B. Rajashekar and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2019. Light effects during pre- and postharvest stages to improve nutrition of high tunnel vegetables.

- Great Plains Growers Conference 11-12 January 2019. St Joseph, MO (oral presentation)
- Batziakas, K., M. Swaney-Stueve, M. Talavera, C.L. Rivard, and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2019. Meeting consumers' needs with locally produced spinach. Great Plains Growers Conference 11-12 January 2019. St Joseph, MO (oral presentation)
  - Jenkins, T., C.L. Rivard, C. Kubota and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2019. Optimizing Transportation Conditions of Grafted Vegetable Seedlings. Great Plains Growers Conference 11-12 January 2019. St Joseph, MO (poster presentation)
  - Pontes-Chiebao, H., and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2017. Enhancing postharvest quality and shelf life of locally-grown vegetables. Great Plains Growers Conference January 12-14, 2017 St. Joseph, MO. (oral presentation)
  - Batziakas, K., and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2017. Basic postharvest handling methods. Great Plains Growers Conference January 12-14, 2017 St. Joseph, MO. (oral presentation)
  - Batziakas, K., and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2017. Utilization of modified atmosphere packaging to increase shelf life. Great Plains Growers Conference January 12-14, 2017 St. Joseph, MO. (oral presentation)
  - Gude, K., and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2017. Yield and quality of spring planted, day-neutral strawberries in a high tunnel. Great Plains Growers Conference January 12-14, 2017 St. Joseph, MO. (oral presentation)
  - Gude, K., and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2016. Catalyzing strawberry production in the Great Plains with the use of high tunnels and plasticulture production systems. Great Plains Growers Conference January 7-9, 2016 St. Joseph, MO.
  - Gude K., and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2015. Catalyzing strawberry production in the Great Plains with the use of high tunnels and plasticulture production systems. Great Plains Growers Conference January 8-10, 2015 St. Joseph, MO. (oral presentation)
  - Ryan, M., and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2015. Implementing high tunnel production to reduce pre- and postharvest crop losses. Great Plains Growers Conference January 8-10, 2015 St. Joseph, MO. (poster presentation)
  - Meyer, L.J., and **E.D. Pliakoni**. 2014. Postharvest quality and shelf life of tomatoes grown in high tunnels vs. the open-field' Great Plains Growers Conference January 8-10, 2014 St. Joseph, MO. (Oral presentation)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

---

- **2018-19 ACUE Course in Effective Teaching Practices.** A yearlong professional development opportunity designed to enhance our college-wide commitment to faculty and student success.
- **Training on analytical method for qualification and quantification of Hemp cannabinoids, 18-20 March, 2019.** I participated on a three days hands-on training with the head chemist of Waters cooperation in Huston TX.
- **Produce Safety Alliance** successfully completed the Produce safety Alliance course: PSA Train –the Trainer Course and became a certify trainer. Class Number KS-180523-INT. Trainer ID Number 46294. Training Date and Location 5/23/2018-5/24/2018.
- **Attended a USDA webinar** with the title “Competitive funding Opportunity” (May 2017).
- **Attended a Student Learning Assessment Workshop** provided from the College of Agriculture (May 2017).
- **Spring 2016 Teaching Workshop** “*Generation Me*”, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

- **Teaching & Learning Workshop** with title: “*High Impact Educational Practices for Graduate Students*” by Greg Eiselein on May 12 at K-State Olathe.
- **Third Annual Big XII Teaching and Learning Conference**, June 2-3, 2016
- **Workshop: “Teaching and Researching within the Field of Urban Horticulture”** at the American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting 8-11 August 2016, Atlanta GA, USA.
- **Workshop: “Developing Soft Skill in Tomorrow’s Leader’s** at the American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting 8-11 August 2016, Atlanta GA, USA
- **Workshop: “Asserting the Relevancy and Impact of Postharvest Programs Around the World”** at the American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting 8-11 August 2016, Atlanta GA, USA.
- **“International Opportunities for Research, Education, and Extension in Horticulture”**, at the American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting 8-11 August 2016, Atlanta GA, USA.
- **“Working with the Industry Boot Camp”** K-State workshop series, January to April 2015.
- **National Science Foundation NSF Communication Workshop “Science: Becoming the Messenger,”** K-State, 13-14 April 2015.
- **Reducing Postharvest Losses: Historical Perspective and Emerging Technologies** workshop at the American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting 3-7 August 2015, New Orleans.
- **Fresh Produce in the City: A Workshop and Tour** at the American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Meeting 3-7 August 2015, New Orleans.
- **Annual Summer Institute on Distance Learning and Instructional Technology (SIDLIT)** at Johnson County Community College, July 30-31 2015. Seminar, Dean of Graduate School about K-State Olathe, 29 January 2014.
- **National Science Foundation (NSF) grant training** in Olathe Campus, 29 January 2014
- **Grant writing seminar**, Manhattan, 24 April 2014.
- **“NSF career” workshop**, Manhattan, 25 April 2014.
- **Webinar on “Urban farming viability”** -29 of April 2014
- **Teaching and learning professional development training** in Olathe Campus, 6 June 2014
- **Teaching and learning professional development training** hosted by Dr. Royce Ann Collins on KSU-Olathe campus - 26 June, 2014
- **Predicting Storage Out-turn Batches of Fresh Products** at the International Society of Horticulture Congress in Brisbane, Australia, 21 August 2014.
- **Urban Agriculture Eco Devo 101** workshop, KC MO Health Department, 12 August 2013
- **New Faculty Teaching and Advising Training** Workshop, Manhattan, 15 August 2013.
- **College of Agriculture Teaching and Advising Workshop and Reception**, Manhattan, 19 August 2013
- **2013-14 K-State Ag Research Scholars (K-StARS) Faculty Development Program**, Manhattan, 21 November 2013
- **Essential Elements of Successful Education Research Proposals” (or “Is this a NASCAR Race or a Research Proposal Team?”)**, Manhattan, 16 December 2013
- **GAPs and GMPs for HACCP-Based Food Safety for the Fresh Produce Industry**, Feb. 21-23,2012, Extension Food Science Training Facility, University of Georgia Campus Athens, Georgia. USA. The course is accredited by the International HACCP Alliance

- **Quality & Innovation of Fresh-Cut produce**”, II European Short Course, “March 10-12<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Cordoba, Spain
- **International Certificate on Postharvest Technology of Horticultural Crops (ICPT)** International student exchange program ATLANTIS, Jan 2007- Apr 2007 at Horticultural Sciences Department, Texas A&M University, USA
- **Certificate of Pedagogical and Teaching Competence**, one-year duration, General Department of Education, School of Pedagogical and Technological Education, Greece, 2006.
- **Training Seminar title: ‘Special Education in High School’**  
Organized by the Laboratory of Neuropsychology, Department of Special Education, University of Thessaly in Volos (Oct 2009 to Jun 2010)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

---

### *National/International Professional Society Memberships:*

- American Society for Horticultural Science (2011-present): Local Food Systems Working Group and Postharvest Working Group.
- Sustainable Agriculture Education Association (2014-present).
- International Society for Horticultural Science (2010-present).
- Member of K-State Gamma Sigma Delta (2015-present).
- Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association (2018-present)

### *Committees:*

- Chair of the 2020 Urban Food Systems Symposium Organizing Committee
- Member of the 2020 Urban Food Systems Symposium Scientific Committee
- Chair of the 2016 Urban Food Systems Symposium Organizing Committee
- Chair of 2016 Urban Food Systems Symposium Scientific Committee
- Member of the Scientific Committee of the 7th International Landscape and Urban Horticulture conference.
- Board Member of the JCCC Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Committee
- Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition, Member of the steering committee.
- The Farm School at Gibbs Road, One of the five founding Board members

### *Ad hoc Reviewer:*

- I have reviewed 22 manuscripts for scientific journals: *Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture*, *Agriculture*, *Acta Horticulturae*, *HortTechnology*, *Foods*, *Postharvest Technology* and *Innovation and HortScience*

## SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

---

- **Reducing Food Losses: An Interactive, High-Stakes Game Approach.** In collaboration with Peter Petracek, Dr. Gohil, Dr. Brecht, Dr. Mitcham, Dr. Jayanty and Dr. Sargent (coordinator) we organized a **workshop as part of the ASHS** with the objective to develop a better understanding of the challenges faced by the fresh produce industry to reduce losses from harvest through consumer levels by audience participation in an interactive game.
- **2019 Expression of University Strengths:** Candice Shoemaker, Cary Rivard and I were asked from the College of Agriculture to prepare a one-page “expression of strength” proposal surrounding the Urban Food Systems program. The proposal was submitted and was approved.

- **Host Dr. Ramadhani Majubwa**, our colleague from Tanzania, spent a week on the Olathe campus as part of our Building Postharvest Capacity in Tanzania project. During Rama's visit, he made multiple presentations (departmental seminar and lunch and learn at the Olathe campus), attended classes in Horticulture and Higher Education, worked on Extension documents and attended our Open House activities. April 2019
- **Spend a week at University of Florida**, Gainesville, in Dr. Karen Koch lab, Professor of plant molecular and cell biology and got training on molecular based technics 25-29 Jan 2016.
- **Active member of the Greater Kansas City Food Hub working group, a team of non-for-profits** (led by KC Healthy Kids) and university extension partners (MU, Lincoln, KSU) dedicated to the expansion of local food markets to meet institutional and wholesale needs.
- **Host Dr. Elizabeth Micham, Director of the Postharvest Technology Center in UC Davis**, with the support the ADVANCE Distinguished Lecture Series, 13 and 14 of October 2014
- **Member of Urban Food System M.S program development team.**
- **Serving as co-Advisor to the Urban Food Systems cohort meetings.**
- **Contribution to K-State Olathe campus:**
  - Appointed as faculty of the School of Applied and Interdisciplinary Studies.
  - Member of the Professional Science Master (PSM) Curriculum Committee.
  - Represent the Urban Food System Specialization for the K-State Olathe campus.
  - Member of the scholarship committee for the K-State Olathe campus.
  - Invited to present my research and teaching program to the K-State Olathe Advisory Board.
  - Participated every year in the Olathe open house event on by introducing the M.S Urban Food Systems specialization as well as all the graduate student programs that HNR offers from 2013-2019.
  - Appointed as faculty of the School of Applied and Interdisciplinary Studies.
  - Major advisor for 1 Professional Science Master student.
  - Member of the scholarship committee for the K-State Olathe campus
  - Participated at the Ingenuity Central that took place in K-State Olathe on April 9th 2015.
    - Member of the Professional Science Master (PSM) Curriculum Committee.
    - Member of the research planning committee for the K-State campus.
  - Member of the Curriculum/Academic Affair committee
  - Participated in the information sections in K-State Olathe those have as objective to recruit new students (every other month).
  - Participated in numerous strategic planning/doing meetings for the Olathe campus
  - Attended most of the Department Applied and Interdisciplinary Studies faculty meetings (once a month).
  - Attended most of the staff meetings at K-State Olathe (every other month).
  - Attended most of the research planning meeting (meeting every month)
  - Participated in numerous strategic planning meetings for the Olathe campus: Program/course development, student recruitment, international student admission, vision and mission.
  - Meeting with prospective students, involved in recruiting efforts (webinars, flyers etc.)
  - Presented to the Olathe Faculty and Staff about the Urban Food Systems Master's Specialization content.

## **Departmental Activities**



- Attended graduate student thesis/dissertation seminars when available
- Attended most departmental seminars
- Attended monthly faculty meetings
- Attended Teaching Faculty meetings
- Assisted my colleagues from Manhattan that are broadcasting their classes to the Olathe Campus.

**Collaborative Working Research and Extension Groups** (proposals, pubs, etc.)

- KSU-Horticulture, Animal Science, Food Science, Adult Education, Ag Economy; Food Nutrition, Dietetics and health; Architecture
- University of Florida
- University of Davis California
- University of Missouri
- University of California Davis
- Iowa State University
- Michigan State University
- North Carolina State University
- The Ohio State University
- University of Arizona
- Washington State University
- University of Georgia
- Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania
- University of Thessaly, Greece