

SIU FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022 EDITION
PHOTO: SIU CAMPUS LAKE



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WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE

We are excited to launch the first newsletter for the new School of Forestry and Horticulture at SIU! Joining these programs felt natural, as both prioritize hands-on learning experiences for our students. And of course, both agree that they feel most at home with some dirt on their boots!

Karl Williard, Forestry Professor who most recently served as Forestry Program Coordinator, has stepped into the role of our Interim School Director. We also have two new office support staff: Bev Bates (accountant) and Becky Lee (admin. aide).

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Forestry and Horticulture Alumni and Friends:

It is an exciting time in our newly formed (January 2022) School of Forestry and Horticulture. Our marriage between Forestry and Horticulture has been a natural fit from the beginning as both programs focus on practical, hands-on training in the field and classroom to prepare students to enter the workforce. We've hired new faculty, Dr. Jose Leme and Dr. Brent Pease, who are helping us develop new specializations in Cannabis Science and Production, Sustainable Horticulture, and a new certificate in Conservation Law Enforcement. This spring, Dr. Jon Schoonover will be offering our Wood as a Raw Material class, utilizing our new portable sawmill.

We remain grateful to all of you who send us summer and career job announcements for our students. The job market for our graduates has never been better in my 23+ years at SIU. I brag to prospective students and their parents that we have proud alums who love to hire Saluki Foresters and Horticulturalists. We've also hired new staff for the School, Becky Lee – Administrative Aide and Bev Bates – Accountant, who are doing a fantastic job. They had big shoes to fill as we had two staff retirements in October 2021, Patti Cludray and Deb David.

We are charged up about the future of our growing Forestry and Horticulture programs. Please consider helping us continue to move our programs forward with a year end gift to our Forestry Summer Camp fund or our Horticulture Scholarship fund (see info on giving inside). Lastly, we'd love to hear from you and host you for a visit to campus. Please drop me a note at williard@siu.edu and keep connected with us on our Instagram (@siuforestry / @siu.horticulture) and Facebook (@forestry.southern / @siu.horticulture) accounts.

Sincerely,



Karl W.J. Williard

Interim Director

School of Forestry and Horticulture





THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, LIFE, AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Susan Graham joins the SIU Foundation as the director of development for the College of Agricultural, Life, and Physical Sciences. Susan has been with SIU since 1993, spending almost 27 years with the former College of Agricultural Sciences, which was reorganized in 2020 combining the College of Science. She served as the Senior Manager of Communication, Outreach, and Recruitment in the former college since 2013. She has been very involved in coordinating SIU FFA events and planning of external events for alumni and the agricultural industry.

Susan is a two-degree graduate of SIU Carbondale. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Management in 2003, her Master of Business Administration in 2009, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Agricultural Sciences (with hopes of completing by May 2025). She and her husband live in Du Quoin and have adult quadruplet sons. Susan serves as music minister in her local church, and she enjoys playing piano (including classical music) and playing golf.



If you are interested in a gift to the Forestry and/or Horticulture programs, please contact her at susang@foundation.siu.edu or by phone at 618-790-4474.

HORTICULTURE/ FORESTRY AT A GLANCE

HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

CURRENT UNDERGRAD STUDENTS: 43

FACULTY:

AMY BOREN
JOSE FRANCO DA CUNHA LEME FILHO
PAUL HENRY
KAREN MIDDEN
BRADLEY TAYLOR
LAURA THOMAS
ALAN WALTERS



FORESTRY PROGRAM

CURRENT UNDERGRAD STUDENTS: 147

CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENTS: 22

FACULTY:

KOFI AKAMANI	BRENT PEASE
ANDREW CARVER	CHARLES RUFFNER
JOHN GRONINGER	JON SCHOONOVER
ERIC HOLZMUELLER	KARL WILLIARD
CLAY NIELSEN	JIM ZACZEK
LOGAN PARK	



A MESSAGE FROM PATTI CLUDRAY, OFFICE MANAGER, ACADEMIC ADVISOR, AND "FORESTRY MOM"

Greetings Saluki Foresters. First I want to thank Forestry Director, Karl Williard for giving me the opportunity to send in this update on what's been happening during my first year of retirement from my position at SIU, October 1, 2021.

Retiring was not an easy decision, but my husband and life partner of 48 years, Larry, has a debilitating illness that meant he needed home care, and it only made sense that I step into the role of full-time caregiver. However, after almost 25 years working in the Forestry Department at SIU it was quite a change of pace.

The first thing on my post-retirement agenda, other than taking care of my "old man" was to organize, de-clutter and deep clean my house from top to bottom. Well.... I managed to make it through our guest bedroom and one closet. Then, all of a sudden, it was Christmas and of course I am retired so I volunteered to host the 2 day extravaganza! With the whole family coming, instead of kicking it in high-gear and completing the cleanup, I just put up a huge Frazier, lots of decorations, and cooked up a storm. That worked, they all had a great time.



Next came a beautiful spring and in keeping with the Forester way, I put on my boots, gloves, and goggles (couldn't find my safety glasses) and got outside to do some invasive species and small tree removal (those pesky sweet gum trees growing in the window wells, were the toughest). This also gave me the opportunity to use the new 16 inch battery operated chain saw that Larry gave me for Christmas. Things went pretty well, soon I had a large brush pile which just begged me to do some burning. Thanks to Dr. Ruffner, I knew to wait for the right conditions and prepare for my burn. So, when the humidity was just right and with garden hose, rake and shovel in hand, I started the fire. WOW, it went up way faster that I had thought it would, flames reaching what looked like 40 feet into the sky. Needless to say, it was a bit scary for a while but all turned out well, with only the tips of my nearby hickory and apple trees getting a bit toasted.

A MESSAGE FROM PATTI, CONTINUED...

Early summer brought an opportunity to attend my first Saluki Con with my daughter, Jessica and her husband, Dustin. It was so much fun. I dressed as my favorite Star Wars character, Princess Leia, and thoroughly enjoyed the day. A highlight was getting to reenact the famous scene when Leia gave R-2 D-2 the death star plans, "Help me Obi Wan Kenobi you are my only hope."



This year has also given us opportunities to visit with family and friends. Larry's sister and brother in law came down from Minnesota and this summer we drove to see my family in northern Illinois; while there we got to spend time with friends we had not seen in years. We are learning how to travel with the equipment and supplies needed for Larry's home dialysis treatments; and health permitting, are hoping to get out and do some sightseeing like we had planned to do when we both retired (Route 66 here we come).

I must say my first year of retirement has been busy; above were just a few highlights. In addition between visits to doctors and physical therapists (Oh, I didn't tell you about our German Shepard, Makita, tackling me on a frisbee run, tearing both my ACL and MCL in early August. Very happy to be out of the brace and walking without a cane now.)

I enjoy going to lunch with my daughter and my friends, sewing, working on cross-stitch projects, and writing when I get a chance.

As you see, this past year has been an adventure and learning experience. Retirement is not what I had originally planned, but like anything in life, we adapt and make the very best of the time that is set before us. However, I will always cherish the time I spent working with the wonderful faculty, students, and alumni while at SIU Forestry. In closing, I am on Facebook and Instagram and love keeping up with the adventures our SIU Forestry Alumni are having coast to coast and around the world. Best wishes and heartfelt thanks to all for helping me live my best life, Patti. (cludrayp@gmail.com)





New Faculty Spotlight

DR. BRENT PEASE

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, FORESTRY

Dr. Brent Pease is a southern Illinois native who joined us in 2021, bringing his academic journey full-circle.

Brent shares his expertise by teaching classes in wildlife monitoring, data analysis, and spatial ecology. He has also developed an active research lab focused on biodiversity and wildlife ecology. He is great at getting students excited and involved and we are fortunate to have him join the team.

When he is not working, Brent can be found birdwatching and exploring the region with his wife, Reanna, and their two little boys.



Find out more about the work Brent and his students are doing (and ways you can get involved!) at: peaselab.com

Favorite Animal (of the Day): Wood Thrush



EDUCATION

Ph.D. Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology
North Carolina State University

M.S. Forestry
Southern Illinois University (*Go Dawgs!*)

B.S. Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology
Colorado State University

New Faculty Spotlight

DR. JOSE FRANCO DA CUNHA LEME FILHO

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, HORTICULTURE

Dr. Jose Leme is originally from Brazil, and started at SIU in Fall 2021, bringing his expertise in cannabis science and cultivation systems.

Jose has been instrumental in developing new courses and curriculum to provide students with education and experience in this new area of study.

His upbeat personality and can-do attitude are much appreciated by the students and faculty. He said since cannabis is "new and cool" right now, he is never at loss for volunteers to help with even the most menial tasks!



For more information on Jose's current projects, go to drleme.com



EDUCATION

Agronomy and Crop Science
Ph.D. Virginia Tech
M.S. Auburn University
B.S. Universidade Estadual de Londrina

FORESTRY ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

MICHAEL BILL

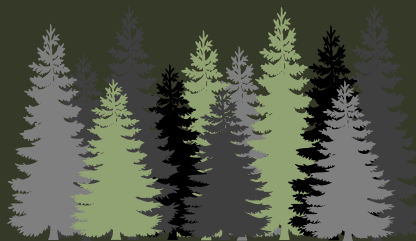
(**B.S. 2002, M.S. 2005**)

Mike's love of the outdoors began early- growing up in rural Northern Illinois on a 250-acre family farm. He is a two-time Saluki Forester: first in the Recreation specialization, and then he studied Watershed Management and Hydrology for his Master's degree. After graduation, Mike moved to Southern Missouri where he lives with his wife and three kids on 20 acres.

Towards the end of receiving his Master's degree, Mike taught at Glenville State College in West Virginia until he accepted a position with the Missouri Department of Conservation. There he has worked as a forest manager, district supervisor, and most recently as the state habitat management coordinator, which is really exciting! He now gets to work statewide with multiple disciplines (fisheries and wildlife biologists, private lands biologists, foresters, etc.) and enjoys helping to move landscape conservation forward.

In his free time, Mike enjoys spending time outdoors. Often times you can catch him kayaking or canoeing with his family, or riding motorcycles.

"I think SIU does a really good job ensuring there is diversity in the subject matter covered, and that has really helped me be able to talk about a wide array of topics in job interviews, with the public, and with other conservation organizations."



FORESTRY ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

KATIE MCGRATH NOVAK

(B.S. 2018)

Katie is originally from Peoria, Illinois and grew up loving outdoor adventures and visiting national parks, which inspired her to study forestry. She graduated from SIU in the Recreation and Parks Management Forestry specialization in 2018. While at SIU, Katie had summer internships with Indiana DNR and Missouri Dept. of Conservation, and was an active participant in the Forestry Club and Tree Campus USA, which gave her valuable skills and experience that she still draws on professionally.

After graduating from SIU, Katie got her M.S. in Forest Sciences from Colorado State University in 2020. She currently holds a dual position at Colorado State University as a Research Associate for the Public Lands Policy group, and as the Coordinator of the Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network, a new network based out of CSU's Center for Collaborative Conservation. She has a passion for both people and natural resources, and loves merging the two everyday by conducting social science research and supporting Colorado's place-based forest collaboratives.

MEMORIES FROM SIU

- Forestry Club (Secretary)
- SAF
- Tree Campus USA Representative
- Study Abroad



Katie with her husband, Mike Novak, SIU Forestry alum 2017 (Mike is currently working in the grounds department at CU Boulder.)

HORTICULTURE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

PATRICK HOGAN

B.S. 2013, M.S. 2016

Patrick Hogan is from the Northwest suburbs of Chicago and attended SIU to earn his B.S. in Plant and Soil Sciences with a specialization in Landscape Horticulture. After graduation he worked at the Chicago Botanical Garden, which sparked his interest in pursuing a master's degree at SIU. Patrick's graduate research focused on alternative, sustainable means to provide plant nutrition, and decreasing chemical fertilizer use.

Since graduating Patrick has had many great experiences, from working in the medicinal cannabis industry to becoming an adjunct instructor for the College of Lake County with their horticulture program. He is currently the greenhouse operations manager for Ball Horticultural's Research and Development Greenhouses in West Chicago where he oversees their breeder stock plants used for trials and marketing, and production for Ball Horticultural Gardens.

Patrick enjoys home life with his wife, 10-year old son, a cat, 3 dogs, and an ever-expanding collection of house plants to look after. He and his family enjoy long walks enjoying various landscapes and exploring the relationships between plants and people.



Fond Memory of SIU

"When I look back at my time at SIU, one of my fondest memories has to be harvesting pumpkins. There were so many varieties growing in one field, which peaked my interest in horticulture trials! Dr. Walters would explain each variety with great depth, including their cultural description, which helped me make a personal connection with the trial and pumpkin varieties."



HORTICULTURE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

VICTORIA THOMAS

B.S. 2012, M.S. 2016

Victoria Thomas always loved being outdoors and helping with her family garden each summer and became further interested in horticulture during FFA in high school. She developed that passion with an undergraduate degree in landscape design and then returned to SIU to complete her graduate research focusing on fertility treatments of lettuce grown on a green roof. During her graduate studies, she was also the teaching greenhouse manager.

Victoria has worked at Focal Point Outdoor Solutions since 2014 as a gardener, horticulturalist, and now operations manager, where she is involved in meeting with vendors, problem-solving, and planning for future seasons. She also enjoys teaching as a part-time adjunct horticulture instructor at Southwestern Illinois College.

Victoria and her husband welcomed a baby boy earlier this year! They enjoy working on their family farm together and watching their son grow.



"I love that SIU has a hands-on nature. They provided me with knowledge of plant material, insects, and diseases that has been the foundation of my career. It's that strong base that you can build off of every day."



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

HORTICULTURE AWARDS

This past February, Dr. Walters accompanied four students to the 86th Southern Region American Society for Horticulture Sciences meeting and competition. In which they won several awards, including 2nd place Overall Team! Further, one of our Salukis, Emma Lagerhausen, was awarded the coveted Club Share Presentation, and will serve as the President of SRASHS for the upcoming year.



STUDENT CONGRESS 2022: MEGAN GULIK

Megan Gulik, Forestry undergraduate student, has been selected as one of only 25 students nationwide to participate in the Fifth Biennial Student Congress in Boise, Idaho. The theme this year is surrounding wildland fire. Students will explore ideas and policy on managing vegetation and fuels for resilient landscapes, protecting homes and communities, managing fire, and responding to wildfire. Students will be guided and mentored by current professionals and distinguished retirees from these areas. The proposal that the students generate will be presented to legislature in Washington, D.C.

NEW SAWMILL

This year we purchased a new portable sawmill! This is a great way for us to continue the tradition of providing hands-on experience for our students. This Spring, Dr. Schoonover will feature the mill in FOR 350: Wood as a Raw Material. Forestry students will be able to use the mill to salvage dead trees and create a useable resource as they follow the full process of harvesting, milling, and drying the wood.



PHOTOS FROM THE PAST!!



Cache River Float,
circa 2001

Courtesy of
Josh Welling

FOR 100 Canoe
Float, 2014



Conclave Victory, 2017

Courtesy of Katie
McGrath Novak

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST!!



Summer Camp,
1979

Courtesy of Jim
Zaczek

Summer Camp,
2001

Courtesy of
Josh Welling



Summer Rec Camp,
2021

Courtesy of Logan Park

When you donate to our Summer Camp fund, all proceeds go toward offsetting fees for our students.

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JOB POSTINGS

Have a job posting to share with our
Salukis?

Email it to Lee.Rebecca@siu.edu.

Thank you!