Hello alumni!

It’s been a busy year of building our programs and striving to provide excellent academic instruction for our students. We continue to emphasize hands-on learning opportunities through field labs and site visits.

Read on to find out more of what we’ve been up to. Thank you for being a part of our Forestry & Horticulture Saluki family.
SCHOOL UPDATE

RECRUITING EVENT: PREVIEW DAY

On April 2, the School of Forestry and Horticulture hosted 27 prospective students and their families for an immersive preview day. Participants met faculty and current students, attended hands-on class demos, and learned about what opportunities SIU has to offer them.

This is the first time we have hosted our own recruitment event like this, targeted specifically toward students interested in forestry and/or horticulture. The event was a big success and we intend to hold another Preview Day in the Fall.

Our guests had a chance to hear from a panel of current students, and watch a demo from the conclave team. We also had class demonstrations on wildlife monitoring, plants for the spring garden, and had guided tours of the green roof and our portable sawmill.

Thank you to everyone who came and helped make this day such a success!
Thank you to all of the alumni and professional organizations who have come to visit campus. We love hearing of memories our alumni have of their time at SIU, from classes with professors to adventures in conclave.

Thanks to alumnus Ric Wilson who shared some photos to take us down memory lane to the conclave in Minnesota in 1988.
Still the same building after 35 years! The vines covering the building are gone and now the landscaping shrubs provide a shady spot. You can also see some of our All-American Selection garden, which is planted by our horticulture students. Many thanks to Amy Boren for tending it through the hot summer weeks!
One of our alumni has become a published author! **Maureen Stine** graduated from SIU Forestry in December 1999 and has written *Grass Left Standing: A Park Interpreter’s Road Map to Forest Bathing* (Mission Point Press, Traverse City, Michigan 2024).

Retired SIU Forestry faculty, Cem Basman penned the forward.

Congratulations Maureen! Go dawgs!
CAREER EXCELLENCE

Stephen was awarded our Alumnus of Year award - having earned his B.S. and M.S. in Forestry at SIU. He went on to earn a Ph.D. from University of Idaho while he gained professional experience with the Forest Service in California and Idaho. Making FireDawgs everywhere proud, he is now the Regional Fuels Operations Specialist for all Forest Service Lands in California. (You can imagine the complexity of this position with the fire-prone lands and the need to protect humans and care for ecosystems!)

We are so proud of Stephen’s commitment and dedication to wildfire management and study.

YOUNG ALUMNA ADVENTURES

Rachael Barry was awarded our Young Alumni award. Rachel graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor’s degree in Forestry, specializing in Recreation Management. Since then, she has been on the move with the Forest Service, working her way up from a recreation technician in the Allegheny National Forest, to Fire Prevention and Education in Custer Gallatin National Forest in Montana, and then began work as a senior firefighter heli-rappeller!

Awesome work, Rachael! We’re proud to have Salukis out in the wild doing such important work!

OUTSTANDING SENIOR

Reese majored in Forestry with minors in Geographic Information Systems and Spanish. In his free time, Reese enjoys endurance running, cycling, and backpacking.

After graduation, Reese began a position with the US Forest Service as a District Recreation Planner for the Huron-Manistee National Forests in northern Michigan. Great job, Reese!
A LEGACY IN FRUIT PRODUCTION

Tom Schwartz has had a prolific career in various avenues of horticultural science, spanning from his work in sales and grower service within the agricultural products industry and his work on the family farm producing fruit for retail markets. He received numerous awards for his specialty cider, produced from Schwartz Farms fruit.

Tom and his wife and business partner, Nancy, oversee the production and marketing of high-quality, locally produced fruit and related baked goods at Hawkins Orchard in Dix, IL.

Photo: Tom Schwartz (left), Alan Walters

EARLY CAREER EXCELLENCE

Nathan Johanning was awarded our Young Alumni award. Nathan currently serves as the Commercial Agriculture Educator for the University of Illinois Extension, focusing on weed management, cover crops, and soil conservation. In addition to teaching and research around fruit, vegetable, and grain production challenges, he is an active grower himself on his family farm.

As a fourth-generation farmer, he values the role the family and community play in horticulture.

OUTSTANDING SENIOR

Veronica majored in Production Horticulture and has served as an AgBassador and Horticulture Club president, in addition to playing the Bassoon in the SIU Wind Ensemble.

After graduation she was hired by the Chicago Botanic Gardens as an assistant horticulturalist in the Japanese Garden. They are lucky to have her!
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND ALUMNI WHO HAVE CONSISTENTLY MADE THIS SUCH A WONDERFUL PLACE TO LEARN, TEACH, AND WORK!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO OUR PROGRAMS, PLEASE VISIT: SFH.SIU.EDU/GIVING.PHP