

SIU FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE

Spring Newsletter

MARCH 21, 2023



KARL WILLIARD,
INTERIM DIRECTOR

EMAIL: WILLIARD@SIU.EDU

PHONE: 618-453-3341

1205 LINCOLN DRIVE
ROOM 184, MAIL CODE 4411
CARBONDALE, IL 62901

Alumni and Friends of Horticulture and Forestry,

We are excited to share with you two opportunities where you can help current and future Salukis receive the same outstanding hands-on training activities you participated in at SIU. First, we are moving full steam ahead on **fundraising for a new Undergraduate Teaching and Research greenhouse** next to our Agriculture Building to replace the greenhouse that was razed in 2017. This is your chance to partner with us to provide a top-notch, active learning facility where Horticulture students can literally step out of the classroom and into the greenhouse.

Second, our Forestry program has just completed their planning for another year of summer field camp in May and June. Our faculty is committed to continuing the tradition of providing 4 weeks of intensive field exercises along with visits to employers and fantastic natural areas in the Western and Eastern US. With rising fuel costs, summer camp can be a significant expense for our students. Please consider **giving to the Summer Camp fund**, where donations are directly used to defray the costs of camp attendance for our current and future Saluki Foresters. Both giving opportunities will be highlighted under our College and School during SIU Day of Giving, March 28.

A handwritten signature of Karl Williard in blue ink, written in a cursive style.

Interim Director, School of Forestry and Horticulture

KAITLYN LAMASTER

HORTICULTURE INSTRUCTOR

Kaitlyn Lamaster is our new Horticulture Instructor, starting at SIUC this semester. She is also a Saluki alumna, earning her bachelors and masters degrees from SIU. She is originally from Manhattan, IL.

Kaitlyn's interest in Horticulture began in high school. She is passionate about spreading the news that you can turn your love for plants into a career! She believes in hands-on learning and has already made her classes an exciting and engaging place to be!

Classes Being Taught:

SPRING SEMESTER:

Landscape Perennials
Greenhouse Management
Sustainable Horticulture

FALL SEMESTER:

Landscape Annuals
Horticulture Physiology
Intro to Horticulture



EDUCATION

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, B.S 2018
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, M.S 2020

After graduation, Kaitlyn worked as a horticulture agent for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension and helped develop a statewide curriculum that focuses on small farms and agent trainings.

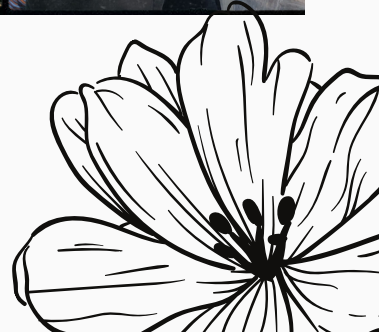


SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE

WITH KAITLYN LAMASTER



Truly a team effort, students from Sustainable Horticulture (HORT 360) assisted with replacing the polyethylene plastic on the SIU Sustainable Farm's high tunnel. They did an amazing job making sure everything was tight and secured before incoming storms. The plastic should benefit the farm's operations for at least another 5 years to assist with class projects, farm markets, and dining hall produce. Talk about a lasting student impact! Thanks for the help from students and farm personnel alike, as always, go Salukis!"



Jim Zaczek

FORESTRY PROFESSOR

Jim Zaczek was born and raised in the Chicago area. After earning BS and MS degrees in Forestry from SIU, he moved north and married his wife, Denise, whom he met in a zoology class while dissecting a fetal pig! Dr. Zaczek worked in the Urbana Arbor Division for a year and then in Cape Girardeau, Missouri as a landscape manager. He was then able to join the research faculty at Penn State University.

During the fourteen years he spent at PSU, he started a family and worked with hardwood regeneration ecology and propagation and Christmas tree breeding, and earned his PhD in Forest Resources Management. He joined the faculty at SIU in 1997.



Little known fact: Dr. Zaczek was on the SIU Gymnastics Team! He is seen here competing on the pommel horse.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BEING AT SIU?

"There is a great balance between engaging in teaching (helping students learn and develop into forestry and natural resource professionals), research (exploring ways to restore and rehabilitate forest ecosystems), and outreach (sharing knowledge of the functions of the natural world with students, colleagues, and the general public). I strive to make a small positive difference in a big world."



As an alumni:

"Because of the opportunities and experiences I had at SIUC, working with newly emerging technologies and developing hands-on field skills, I built credentials.

That combined with networking with former professors and fellow students helped to open doors that I stepped through."

CODY GOLDMAN

FORESTRY ALUMNUS

EARLY CAREER ALUMNI AWARD FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Cody Goldman was awarded the Early Career Alumni Award from the Alumni Association! He was honored at the College of Agricultural, Life, and Physical Sciences All Ag Banquet on February 24, 2023.



Karl Williard, Cody Goldman, John Dickson, John Groninger

During school, Cody was busy working at Dickson Resource Management with John Dickson in Makanda, Illinois. Since graduation, Cody has moved to Austin, Texas, and works as a city forester. He is also the owner of his own business, Goldman Resource Management.

Cody met his wife, Brandi, at a tree planting event and they now have two little girls.



Cody joined the Illinois National Guard Infantry. After coming back home from basic training he joined a national guard unit in West Frankfort, Illinois. Cody continued his education, while taking part in drill once a month.



Dr. Charles Ruffner Recognition

ALL AG BANQUET 2023

Forestry Professor Charles Ruffner was awarded the Don Elkins award at the All Ag Banquet, 2023. This is awarded to a faculty who is nominated by students for outstanding teaching and student mentoring.

Well deserved! Dr. Ruffner goes above and beyond for our students!



AWARD WINNING HORTICULTURE CLUB



On February 11- 12th, four horticulture club members took part in the Southern Region ASHS conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Students that took part were Jonathan Henson, Kayla Grey, Ryan Benidt, and Veronica Laurent.



AWARDS WON

Club Share: 2nd place: Outstanding Club
3rd Place: Overall Club Fruit Crops

Commodities Judging:
2nd Place: individual fruit crops (Grey)
1st place: individual horticulture crops (Henson)
1st place: individual woody (Henson)
2nd Place Overall: Individual Ornamental Crops (Henson)

Congrats!

KAYLA GREY

New ACB Club Treasurer



HORTICULTURE CLUB CONFERENCE REPORT

By Veronica Laurent, Horticulture Club President

From February 3rd to 5th, Horticulture Association attended the SR-ASHS (Southern Region, American Society for Horticultural Science) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. We sent four members to compete: Jonathan Henson, Kayla Grey, Ryan Benidt, and Veronica Laurent. Emma Lagerhausen attended the conference as the president of ACB (Association of Collegiate Branches) for SR-ASHS. Dr. Steven Still attended the conference as our advisor. Five universities, including SIU, attended this conference.

On February 3rd, we presented in the ACB Club Share competition. This is a competition where at least one member from each of the attending universities will present a slideshow about their horticulture clubs. Advisors judge the presentations, and the results are given at the ACB business meeting on Sunday. Veronica Laurent presented SIU Horticulture Association's slideshow. After the club share, all universities had lunch at a local café and took a tour of the Myriad Botanical Gardens and Crystal Bridge Conservatory. Later in the evening, members explored downtown Oklahoma City.

On February 4th, we competed in the J. Benton Storey Horticulture Judging Contest. There are four categories in this contest: Woody Ornamental, Greenhouse Foliage and Floral Crops, Vegetable Crops, and Fruit Crops. Each member that is competing takes part in each category. The Woody Ornamental and Greenhouse Foliage and Floral Crops categories are tree and plant ID and Vegetable Crops and Fruit Crops is judging the quality of different products.

Later that day, members visited the outdoor area of Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum and toured more of downtown Oklahoma City.

On February 5th, members attended the ACB business meeting, where the ACB officers for this next year were voted on and awards were announced. From SIU, Kayla Grey was elected as the new ACB treasurer. For awards, as an overall club, SIU Horticulture Association earned the Club Share award, 2nd place for Outstanding Club, and 3rd place for Fruit Crops Commodities Judging. For individual awards, Kayla Grey won 2nd place individual Fruit Crops Commodities Judging and Jonathan Henson won 1st place individual Floriculture Crops, 1st place in individual Woody Ornamental Crops, and 2nd place overall individual. After the ACB business meeting, students attended the annual ASHS business meeting, where we had the opportunity to learn what occurs in a professional business meeting.

Overall, the trip was an educational and fun experience for our members. We are very proud of our team for representing our club and school well. We cannot wait to attend and compete in the SR-ASHS conference next year and bring home more awards.

DAY OF GIVING: MARCH 28, 2023

TO EASILY CONTRIBUTE ONLINE, GO TO
SFH.SIU.EDU/GIVING.PHP

- UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AND RESERACH GREENHOUSE FACILITIES FUND
- FORESTRY STUDENTS SUMMER FIELD CAMP FUND

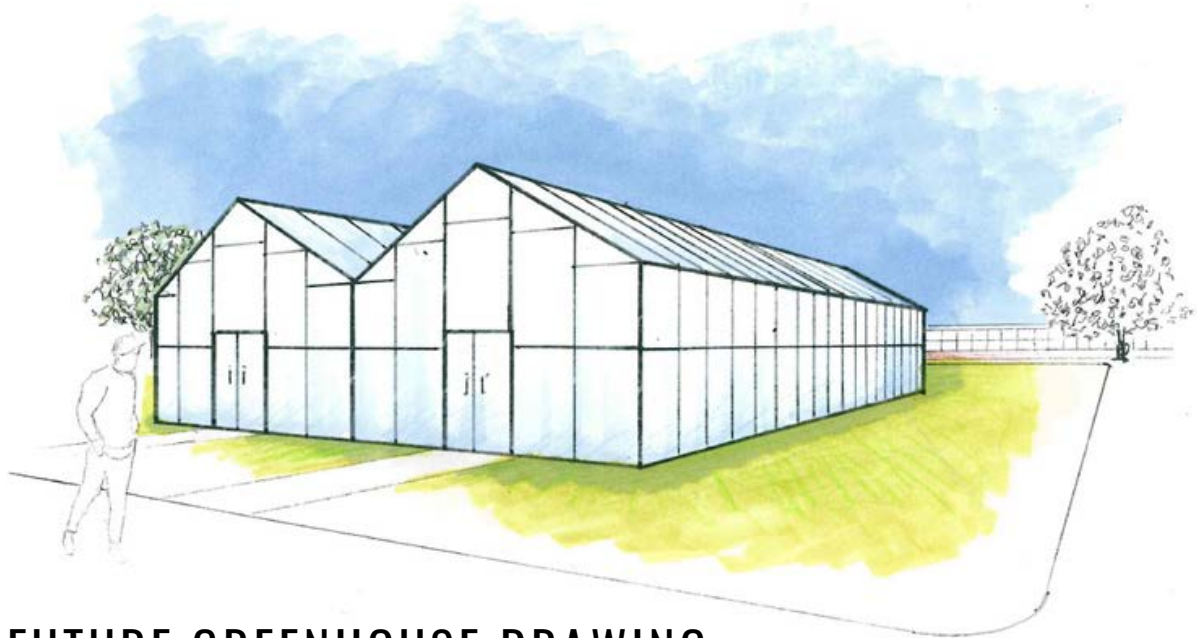
For more info contact:



SUSAN GRAHAM

susang@foundation.siu.edu

618-790-4474



FUTURE GREENHOUSE DRAWING
BY LAURA THOMAS, HORTICULTURE INSTRUCTOR

Memories from the Past



Left to right: Carver, Mangun, Williard, Basman, Zaczek, Ruffner, Groninger

Do you have photos from your time in our Forestry/Horticulture programs?
Share them with us! Email: forestry@siu.edu or horticulture@siu.edu

Keep an eye on our social media accounts for current happenings and throwbacks!



A big THANK YOU to our communications intern, **Hannah Harris**, who did all the heavy lifting in getting our first newsletters up and running! Hannah is a senior, graduating in Agricultural Systems and Education this Spring.

Thank you, Hannah!

