HORTICULTURE ALUMNI-STUDENT SERVICE DAY
Celebrating 40 years of Horticulture at Illinois State University
Saturday, April 28, 2018

RSVP FORM AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Name __________________________ Name of Business/Organization __________________________

Mailing Address __________________________ Email __________________________

Phone __________________________

AGENDA
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Meet and Greet/Set-up
9:00 - Noon Morning Session
Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch (Ropp 107F)
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Afternoon Session

NUMBER OF GUESTS ATTENDING
Entire Day, including lunch ____
Morning session ONLY, concluding with lunch ____
Afternoon session ONLY, beginning with lunch ____

Unless specified, all activities will be held at the Horticulture Center: W. Raab Rd. Normal, IL 61761, across from the Corn Crib Stadium. Please return form to Jessica Chambers at horticulture@ilstu.edu or by mail to 136 Ropp Agriculture Building; Campus Box 5020 Normal, Illinois 61790-5020. Come dressed for work!

UPGRADING YOUR FLEET?
If you have equipment with a remaining useful life that you are looking to trade in or retire, please consider donating it instead to the Horticulture Center. Our program continues to expand its equipment fleet and operations, and your donation will help students become proficient in a wider range of tools used within our discipline. The Alumni-Student Service Day marks the perfect opportunity to facilitate such a donation! We will be ready to receive your equipment at the Horticulture Center on April 28th.

While we would welcome any type of donation, commercial-grade items that we especially seek include:
- Spades, shovels, rakes, pruning tools, wheelbarrows, ball carts, etc.
- Walk-behind and hand-held landscape/construction power equipment
- Landscape or vegetable field implements for utility tractor
- Gator or similar utility vehicle
- Skid-steer or tracked loader and/or attachments
- 12,000+ lb. GVWR flatbed trailer
- Dump trailer or 1-ton dump truck

I am interested in donating the following:

Please contact Nick Pershey at napersh@ilstu.edu to make an equipment donation of any kind. If you cannot bring your donation with you on April 28th, we can arrange to pick it up from you. Thank you for your generous consideration!
Greetings!

Founded in 1978, Illinois State University’s Horticulture-Agribusiness degree sequence was the culmination of Dr. Margaret (Peg) Balbach’s persistent efforts, and this year we mark the 40th anniversary of the program she established. To celebrate the occasion, we invite you, our fellow alumni, to participate in the first-ever Horticulture Alumni-Student Service Day on Saturday, April 28th. In working side-by-side, we hope that you will connect with our students as we install four-season garden beds and paver features that will function to guide guests into our Horticulture Center.

The ISU Horticulture Center was established in 2005 along Raab Road in Normal. Today, the 23-acre facility serves as an integral part of our Horticulture and Landscape Management curriculum where students develop and apply real-world skills necessary to enter the horticultural workforce. Each week, over 100 students of all levels utilize this outdoor laboratory to acquire hands-on experience in landscape design and construction, grounds maintenance, equipment operation, plant identification, ecological restoration, and horticultural crop production.

Come hear how you can support our efforts to train even higher-performing graduates within our discipline. Over the lunch hour, we will kick off an initiative to increase mentoring opportunities offered to horticulture students through the creation of Student Directorships. These will expand the environment in which advanced students can collaborate with faculty and mentor their peers as we all work to develop and maintain the various elements of the Horticulture Center.

We envision a Directorship Program that better grooms students for positions in management and operations. Upon graduation, we will announce these exceptional students and directly connect them to anyone recruiting new talent. We seek your experience and insight into how this program can maximize its value to you, our professional colleagues.

Please join us to celebrate how much we have grown over the past 40 years and help us seed the future as we collectively reinvest in our students, program, and profession. We hope you will share with us the myriad ways you each have spread the influence of ISU horticulture far beyond campus.

Warmly,
The horticulture faculty at Illinois State University

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David Kopsell, Alumnus ‘93
Professor, Horticulture

Jessica Chambers, Alumna ‘93
Director, Horticulture Center

Nick Pershey, Alumnus ‘09
Lecturer and Horticulturalist