



# CANNA DAWGS NEWSLETTER

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**SIU**  
CARBONDALE

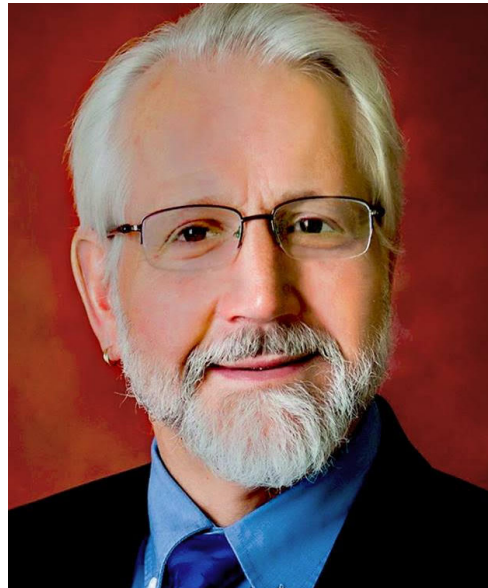
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**CENTER FOR  
CANNABIS SCIENCE**

## The SIU Cannabis Science Center Welcomes You!

The mission of the SIU Cannabis Science Center is a multi faceted effort of a wide variety of interests. The center's director is Dr. Dale Buck Hales, Professor and Chair of the Departments of Physiology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and Anatomy at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Carbondale.

Dr. Buck Hales, photo right, is a renowned expert in steroid hormone biology and cancers of the reproductive tract. His work has led to wide scale acceptance of the laying hen model of ovarian cancer, the only spontaneous and natural model that accurately represents the human disease. The Hales lab pioneered the use of the laying hen model for natural product intervention for the prevention and treatment of ovarian cancer. CBD and other cannabinoids have garnered a significant amount of public interest and there are many anecdotal reports on the health benefits of the cannabinoids, especially their anti-cancer actions. The hen model provides a unique opportunity for examining the

anticancer actions and other health benefits of CBD and other cannabinoids.



### **THE FUTURE OF CANNABIS** **Bringing together the** **cannabis community** **in southern Illinois** **and beyond.**

Our focus includes Agricultural, Analytical, Biomedical, Educational, Healthcare, and Community to establish networks of research, practitioners, empowerment, and workforce development. The Center aims to soon develop Bachelor's degree program in Cannabis, and currently offers classes and certifications through Agriculture, Plant Biology and even Cannabis Law.

In March of 2021, the Southern Illinois Hemp and Cannabis Symposium was held in a digital format, and speakers from Illinois Department of Agriculture, a variety of schools throughout Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and many more. Past symposiums focused on topics such as Hemp Production in Illinois, SIU Research, Cancer Research, Rules and Regulations, Banking, Insurance, Security, Seed Selection and Propagation Techniques, Weed Control, Disease and Pest ID and Control, Flowering and Photoperiod Manipulation, Harvesting - Drying - Storage Techniques, Processing and Marketing Your Products, and more.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Southern Illinois Hemp/  
Cannabis Symposium -  
March 26, 2022**



### **TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON...**

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## Featured Board Member Karla L Gage, PhD

Dr. Karla Gage is Assistant Professor of Weed Science and Plant Biology at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where she received her Ph.D. in Plant Biology with a focus in Weed Ecology in 2013. She holds a cross-appointment between the College of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Plant Soil and Agricultural Systems, and the College of Science, Department of Plant Biology. She has experience working in weed management research, planning and control in agricultural, grassland, forest, and aquatic ecosystems.

An October 2020 article from HempGrower featured Karla and her team's 2020 harvest of their USDA-approved, CBD-rich hemp crop, see photo to right. The article quotes Karla in saying, "With the research program, I really wanted to start looking at hemp crops in rotation with corn and soybeans. As a weed scientist, I'm thinking about new ways to diversify cropping systems so that we have new tools and capabilities to control weeds in those environments. We know that crop

rotations can be a critical component of this. The more crops you have in rotation, the fewer problems you have with weeds and pathogens. So I really wanted to start doing research on hemp. I wanted to look at hemp as a fiber crop and also a seed crop. That's kind of where we're going, because I was thinking, right now with the current way that a CBD crop is cultivated, it's going to be a really difficult to fit that into a rational strategy with corn and soybeans".

The article goes on to note that, Avery Shikanai, a graduate student working on this project and helping lead the research component, said that wet springs and dry summers make it hard to establish a hemp crop around Carbondale, but if we look at areas of good establishment and rapid early growth, they were pretty successful at suppressing weeds."

Karla's other interests include, the biology and ecology of weeds within managed and unmanaged systems, efficacy of new technologies in weed control, the effects of weed



management on weed population dynamics and the composition of the weed community or "weed shifts" to new dominant species, the evolution of weeds in response to management, as in the development and consequences of herbicide-resistance, the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems, and the combination of multiple methods (biological, cultural, mechanical, physical, and chemical controls) to promote the long-term, effective management of weeds.



*Photo above, Avery Shikanai*





## Community Shoutout Squish Global, Marion, IL

We want to take a moment to honor the Lawler Family, owners of **Squish Global**, a local, organic hemp farm. This family-run business is making great strides in the local cannabis industry. What began as a small, organic hemp farm located on their multi-generational family farm and homestead, has grown into a global business and storefront in Marion, Illinois.

“Squish Global was founded in 2019 with the desire to educate people and bring wellness and holistic health to as many lives as possible. The family farm now cultivates organic and sustainably grown hemp from that rich Illinois soil, with the same meticulous love and care the family has always been known for. Remember, what we feed the plants is what feeds us. So the fruits of the family’s labor will be used to provide premium CBD flower and solvent-free, minimally processed, full spectrum CBD oils for you and your pets”.

Squish Global takes a horticultural approach to cultivating their premium hemp flower, always

allowing a fine-tuned approach to handling weed and pest management with natural ingredients, and always making sure to stay within Illinois’ state compliance testing levels of less than 0.3% THC. They specialize in various high-CBD strains like Cherry Squish, Super Rich, and Cherry Blossom.

They also collaborated with a local honey farmer, Peace, Love & Bees to bring us CBD-Infused Local Honey. Squish always uses a botanical extraction method in organic olive oil, organic avocado oil, organic hemp oil, or honey, exemplifies the need to use harsh chemical solvents. This allows an even more natural product, safe for many consumers to enjoy on a daily basis.

Find out more about Squish Global at their storefront located at 1305 N. Carbon Street, Suite 3, Marion, IL 62959. Call them at 618-422-8822. Visit them online at [www.SquishGlobal.com](http://www.SquishGlobal.com).



*Photos above, Squish Global*

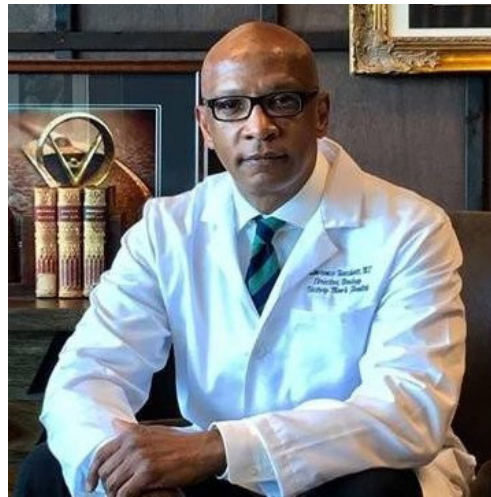


## New Cannabis Certificate at SIU Intensive Controlled Environment Plant & Production

It is with great hope that we can enhance education and opportunities in our local, regional, national, and international workforce. The cannabis industry is set up for a very successful future here in southern Illinois and now is our time to shine. With an ever-growing number of cannabis certificate programs and classes being offered, we aim to provide the most inclusive program nationwide.

Completion of the Intensive Controlled-Environmental Plant and Production Certificate program will produce skilled entry-level certificate-holders with the horticultural management and production skills needed in the rapidly expanding floriculture, specialty vegetable, therapeutic cannabis, and urban and protected structure production systems industries. The certificate may be awarded on a stand-alone basis as well as serving in partial fulfillment of a B.S. in Horticulture. Additionally, SIU offered a Cannabis Law class in Fall of 2021, which was open to all students regardless of major.

### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY Phoenix Cannabis Production Scholarship



We are excited to announce an incredible scholarship opportunity made possible by Dr. Lawrence Hatch, MD, pictured above. Hatchett is a board-certified urologist serving the Marion, IL region under the Heartland Regional Medical Group.

This scholarship is made available for students in the Intensive Controlled-Environment Plant Production Certificate program. Preference will be given to an applicant who is African-American, Hispanic or other underrepresented population.

Applicants must submit an essay discussing the impact of the cannabis industry and the scholarship on their future.

An intriguing article, "SIU Changed My Life", by SIU Foundation states that even during a time of racial division, a visit Hatchett took to SIU in third grade left him with a feeling of utopia and claimed he had never felt so accepted, loved and appreciated. It was that connection that inspired Dr. Hatchett to invest over \$100,000 to establish and fund the Phoenix Cannabis Production Scholarship to improve the lives of talented young people by adding to the well-needed diversity in today's cannabis industry.



Find out more on our website  
here: [www.cannabiscenter.siu.edu](http://www.cannabiscenter.siu.edu)  
or on Facebook!