



CANNA DAWGS NEWSLETTER

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SIU SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
CARBONDALE CENTER OF CANNABIS SCIENCE

You may have noticed some changes in our newsletter and the SIUC Cannabis Science Center Site. The students have taken over and we are making a few changes. This issue for 4/20 is our first endeavor at sharing our campus cannabis news. One of our co-editors, Kirk Kristoffersen will be changing the graphics and layouts. I, Brenda King will be co-editor of content, and writer of the articles in this issue. I must give credit to all those that shared their story for this issue. This newsletter is a collaborative venture, and we hope to hear from students and faculty from the entire university.

If you are interested in submitting items to be considered for publishing, please email www.cannabissciencecenter@siu.edu. We want any cannabis related research that you are a part of anywhere on campus that you would like to be considered for publishing in Canna Dawgs. It can be artwork; it must be cannabis related.

The Cannabis Science Center will also have a new look soon. We value you and your feedback. It is our goal to make the site as user friendly as possible.



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DANIEL SILVER

Paralegal Studies / clinical associate professor

The SIUC Cannabis Science Center's faculty has members from the School of Medicine, Agriculture, Plant Biology, Law, and others. One of the Center's faculty is **Daniel A. Silver, J.D.** Mr. Silver's legal career began as a court reporter in Downtown Chicago.. He next worked as an executive legal secretary/paralegal and owned a small secretarial service.

Mr. Silver received his J.D. from the SIU School of Law in 1993 and has since been licensed in good standing to practice law in the State of Illinois and in federal court. His current law practice is primarily consumer bankruptcy, estate planning, real estate, and cannabis law. In addition to being an active and ongoing member of the JCBA, Mr. Silver has served as President and Vice-President of the Jackson County Bar Association and continues his many years on the Joint CLE Committee.

In conjunction with the Cannabis Science Center, Professor Silver teaches Cannabis Law, PARL 420, is taught during the fall semesters on ZOOM and is open to

students of all majors.

The course catalogue defines the PARL 420 Cannabis Law, as follows: "The purpose of this course is to study the fundamentals of cannabis law, focusing on Illinois law, and we will also cover the impact of Federal law and developments in other states. We will cover hemp and marijuana and related commercial and criminal law. There may be speakers who are professional legal practitioners or engaged in commercial production or dispensing. Skills and knowledge will be developed through participation in class, exercises and assignments. Professional and ethical responsibilities are stressed throughout the course."

I took the PARL 420 course with Dr. Silver and recommend anyone interested in the cannabis industry to take the course, as well. The teaching honors Professor Silver received are well deserved. He breaks down the law and how it applies to growers, processors, dispensaries and consumers.



Undergraduate Spotlight



Diyahvion Terrel Skinner is a student in the Horticulture Department at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (SIUC). Currently he is enrolled in the Cannabis Production and Supply Chain course offered by the Horticulture program at Southern Illinois University. Skinner is relatively new at SIUC. However, he has spent his time taking part in every opportunity SIUC offers, and then some. Skinner attended Malcom X, City College of Chicago. While there he played basketball for the school. Just before graduating from Malcom X he completed the Molecular Engineering Internship at the University of Chicago. Skinner has now joined the Saluki's.

With everything that Skinner has done since his arrival, it's hard to keep up. He explains his future and what has kept him busy, "So, I recently got a 3-month long internship opportunity for this upcoming summer at the Chicago Botanic Garden. While I work and go to class, I am interning in Oussama Badad's Lab at Research Park (at SIUC) to gain hands-on experience. That company is named Trilogene Seeds Inc. I am doing that internship now. Lastly,

since the Externship I did over break was the first ever with the Cannabis Science Center, I decided to layout a diverse itinerary for those who come after me with a passion for Cannabis." Oussama Badad is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Plant, Soils, and Agricultural Systems at SIUC.

Skinner continues, "I dedicated the first half of my Externship to assisting my Horticulture peer with plant basics like transplanting and learning more about greenhouse management." He continues, "I am committed to being a well-rounded Horticulturist." That commitment is evident in all that Skinner does in and out of class.

Skinner shares that he "visited the grow facility for AerosourceH. According to their website, "AerosourceH is THE pioneer in aeroponics with over 20 years' experience in farming, hemp, and cannabis cultivation. "I was able to shadow Ira Gingrich, master grower at the facility, and learn about their whole operation. He is very experienced and knowledgeable. I appreciate (him) sharing future plans, hands-on experience, and cultivation.



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Skinner and the many opportunities at SIUC





Undergraduate Spotlight



Ashley and Danny Stephens are seniors graduating in May 2024 with a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture Production with a certificate in Intensive Controlled-Environmental Plant and Production. They are one of two married couples in Dr. Jose Leme's Cannabis Production and Supply Chain class at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. They moved to Southern Illinois from Indiana in 2016, "after Danny got out of the military and we realized Indianapolis was too fast-paced," Ashley Stephens explains.

They came to SIU to gain knowledge in horticulture to improve our homestead. "We wanted to learn sustainable techniques and were excited to include cannabis in our farm and degree plan. We live on our farm in Southern Illinois (and) are dedicated to taking care of the lives that call our area of responsibility home. We operate with goals of renewability and sustainability, like companion planting, composting, and recycling to teach and enhance future generations. We focus on experimenting organically to enrich the soil and reduce our waste. We are beginning our third year

of outdoor cannabis production. Currently, we are developing our cannabis cultivation practices through education and hands-on experience with CBG cultivars. We would like to use this experience to produce craft/customized, organic, sun-grown cannabis that will thrive in Southern Illinois conditions." The Stephens' as students can put theory into practice. We hope they will keep us up to date with their practical research.

The Stephens know that cannabis is an amazing plant that can be used for fiber, feed, medicine, and so much more that can help their farm. While their focus is on cover crops, companion planting, and compost they want to see how cannabis will fit in with those techniques. They would like students to know "how wonderful it is to work with teachers like ours who are excited to come to school ." The instructors are learning as the students are learning about cannabis." It is exciting to be able to study cannabis, an ancient plant, with today's science and innovation.



Ashley and Danny Stephens at home with family.





Graduate Student Spotlight



Gorman Saunders' path to his current position as a master's degree student at SIUC's Plant Biology Department is an interesting one. His father was an Industrial Safety Hygienist for the Army Corp of Engineers, TVA, and others. The job required the family to move, a lot. Saunders went to three different high schools. After Saunders served with the United States Coast Guard, he decided to change paths and enrolled in a Plant and Soil Science associate degree program at a junior college in 2018. Saunders went on to the University of Tennessee at Martin receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Crop and Soil Science in 2022. After graduation he was a bit unsure what his next venture would be. Saunders states that he knew he would "like my path to remain with research so that I might progress our understanding of cannabis. Making the grow process more efficient while reducing environmental impact."

While at the University of Tennessee, his research included investigating the physiological and

biochemical effects of utilizing chicken litter as a source of phosphorous on soybeans under the guidance of Dr. Barbara Darroch. Saunders also held a Laboratory Technician position. He performed the duties of a research technician for the Plant Pathology Department at the West Tennessee Research and Education Center under the guidance of Dr. Heather Kelly. Saunders knew after these experiences that he wanted to apply his knowledge to the study of cannabis. Saunders professor, Dr. Bethany Wolters (<https://www.utm.edu/directory/departments/AGN/s/taff>) just happened to be a Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech. while SIUC's own Dr. Leme was a Ph.D. student there. Dr. Wolters suggested that Saunders should reach out to SIUC (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale). Soon Saunders was in contact with Dr. Leme and his opportunity to research cannabis while working on his master's degree began.



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Dr. Leme invited Gorman Saunders to our Cannabis Production and Supply Chain class. We learned firsthand that Saunders is an excellent instructor. He introduced himself as a plant biology master's student with a research thesis investigating thigmomorphogenesis in Cannabis. With any research, one must ask, "What do we want to know?" Saunders explains that in this study he wants to know if mechanical vibration affects plant growth and will it allow higher production of secondary metabolites. Super cropping, also known as HST (high-stress training) is an invasive training technique that involves pinching or crushing cannabis branches. This could produce more cannabinoids and could increase stem strength, and lateral growth of the cannabis plant.

After an in-depth discussion of the materials

to be used, and data to be collected, Saunders invited the class to the lab he will be utilizing to help him set up the grow tents with the vibratory mechanism, GanjaGrid is the brand used. We were eager and willing to stay and help after the class bell rang. A few of us had other obligations but many stayed. Saunders shared that after all the grow tents were completed and the students had left a neurobiology professor from a neighboring office came by and remarked about how engaged Saunders student helpers were. The neurobiology professor wondered how Saunders kept a class so engaged they stayed past the end of class. Saunders states he is unsure of where this energy comes from, but he is ecstatic that students are excited about a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) course.