

# **Laura S. Thomas**

Associate Lecturer, (NTT)

School of forestry and Horticulture, Collage of Agricultural, Life and Physical Sciences

## Education

### **Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois**

#### **Masters of Science – Plant and Soil Science – Landscape Design - 1992**

Master's Thesis – Contemporary landscape design guidelines for architects involved in landscaping historic sites

- Relevant course work: Included studies in design psychology, horticulture, park & wild land management, and environmental interpretation.
- Member Graduate Student Council.
- Graduate Assistant for in the Plant and Soil Science department. Teachers Assistant for the introductory design class including lecturing and grading assignments while the instructor was out on maternity leave.
- Graduate Assistant in the Interior Design and Architecture Departments. Co-taught an interior design rendering class which included lectures and grading assignments. Present in class and in office for one-on-one advisement.
- Member Plant and Soil Science Club.

#### **Bachelor of Science – Advanced Technical Studies – Architecture and Landscape Design - 1988**

- Relevant coursework: Classes with an emphasis on work center management, architecture, and landscape design.
- Member Gamma Beta Phi honor society.

#### **Associates of Applied Science – Architectural Technology - 1987**

- Relevant coursework: Classes specializing in the basics of architecture, including drafting, graphics, systems and engineering of small to large scale buildings.

## Appointments

- Fall 2018 – NTT Assistant Instructor
- Fall 2025 – NTT Associate Lecturer

## Description of areas of expertise in research, scholarship, and creative activities

- 2025 Part of Curriculum Committee – Discussed expected jobs for horticulture graduates, what skills they would need and then reviewed existing courses to ensure that we were providing the best skill set, adding classes or material as needed.
- 2024-2025 **Educational Policy committee** for the College of Agricultural Life and Physical Sciences.

- Spring 2023 - **Educational Policy committee** for the College of Agricultural Life and Physical Sciences. (Advises the College faculty and Dean on academic matters including but not limited to guidelines for teaching evaluation in the College; degree requirements; readmission policies; Dean's List criteria; and criteria for scholarships, awards, and the like.)
- Fall 2023 – Instructor for U101 Saluki Success (Horticulture and CTEM students)
- Spring 2023 – created a computer drawing for Forestry Graduate student Rebecca Kagaris. Proposal for Interpretive trail for Sloth Relocation site.
- Spring 2022 – Voted outstanding faculty member by two students for the Women's Recognition Ceremony.
- Spring 2021 – Judge for the Betty Lou Mitchell Endowed Scholarship.
- Summer 2021 Connected student with business to work on landscape idea.
- (Multiple years) Set students up with private citizens to work on landscape designs so that they can gain experience and boost their resumes.
- Instructor for HORT 439 Introduction to Landscape Design Software. Developed and implemented new class material.
- Instructor for HORT/PSAS 480 Designing Outdoor Spaces. On-line class for horticulture undergraduates and master's architecture students. Developed and implemented new class material.
- Volunteered to assist with Student Steel Bridge Competition National event at SIU.
- Created an online option for the HORT 328A class.
- Created drawing and questions for FFA competition.
- Volunteered to assist with Southern Illinois high school open house.

#### Courses (last five years)

HORT 328A Introduction to Landscape Design (lecture)  
 HORT 328A-950 Introduction to Landscape Design (online lecture)  
 HORT 328B Introduction to Landscape Design (studio)  
 HORT 382 Professional Development for Horticulture Students  
 HORT/PSAS 439 Landscape Design Computer Software  
 HORT/PSAS 428 Advanced Landscape Design  
 HORT/PSAS 480 Designing Outdoor Spaces (online)  
 U101 University Saluki Success

#### Graduate students

- Spring – Summer 2023 Masters of Architecture committee for Ross Speidel

#### Recent publications or creative activities (last five years)

- N/A
- Designed and oversaw the creation of a new beer garden for a local Bar/ Event venue

Grants or other funding (last five years) N/A