





**Faculty Member Contact Information**

<b>Name</b>	Dr. Gillian Acheson
<b>Contact Info</b>	
SIUE Email	<a href="mailto:gacheso@siue.edu">gacheso@siue.edu</a>
Campus Box	1459
<b>Department</b>	Geography

**1 Funded, 1 Unfunded URCA Assistant**

	This position is <b>ONLY</b> open to students who have declared a major in this discipline.	<b>M</b>
	This project deals with social justice issues.	
	This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.	
	This project deals with human health and wellness issues.	
	This project deals with community outreach.	
	This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.	<b>I</b>

**Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?**

- I am open to taking students outside of my discipline, but only those in similar fields.

**How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?**

(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 6-9

**Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?**

- Yes, 1-3 credit hours of GEOG 490

**Location of research/creative activities:**

- AH 1316

**Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?**

This project investigates the cultural landscape of botanical gardens in the United States. A database will be created that details the characteristics (such as location, founding date, size, and types of display gardens). A sample of gardens from the database will then be selected to study their features, spatial organization, and regional identity. The objective is to understand the commonalities that botanical gardens share and the features that represent a garden's unique location.

**Brief description of student responsibilities?**

Student responsibilities include compiling the database of botanical gardens, working with me to identify the study gardens, and assisting with the analysis of documents (e.g., maps, photographs, brochures, and other related documents) to evaluate the cultural landscape of the selected gardens.

**URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?**

Students will gain experience collecting data from websites, compiling a database in Excel that is complete and accurate, and conducting qualitative analysis (e.g., content analysis, map and image analysis).

**Requirements of Students**

**If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:**

- There are no required times - students are able to set their own hours.

**If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?**

- There is no off campus work.

**Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:**

- There are no prerequisite classes required.

**Other requirements or notes to applicants:**

- None.