



**Field and Laboratory Technician: field and laboratory analysis of ecosystem ecology** January 1995 – May 1996  
*Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut*

- Conducted field research and laboratory analysis of forest ecology

**Herbarium Assistant: collections management and mapping** May – November 1990  
*Kansas Biological Survey, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas*

- Processed herbarium specimens and created a map of pre-European settlement vegetation

## University Teaching Experience

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**Teaching Assistant: LA 250 Environmental Site Analysis** Fall 2024 and 2025  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

- Lecture and lab course on analyzing geographical, ecological and social data for undergraduate and graduate students
- Enrollment of twenty-seven to thirty-five students

**Teaching Assistant: LA 352 Woody Landscape Plants** Spring 2023, 2024 and 2025  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

- Lecture and lab course on identification, ecology and design aspects of woody plants for undergraduate and graduate students
- Enrollment of thirty-three students

**Instructor: LA/NRES/UP 446 Sustainable Planning Seminar** Spring 2023, 2024 and 2025  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

- Interdisciplinary sustainability seminar for upper-level undergraduate and graduate students
- Enrollment of seventeen – twenty-seven students

**Teaching Assistant: LA 234 Site Design Studio** Spring 2025  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

- Design studio for second-year BLA students
- Enrollment of eighteen students

**Teaching Assistant: LA 101/590 Introduction to Landscape Architecture** Fall 2023  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

- Survey course on landscape projects for undergraduate and graduate students
- Enrollment of seventy-five students

**Adjunct Lecturer: GS 1200 Natural History of Illinois** 2010 – 2018  
*North Park University, Chicago, Illinois*

- Introductory natural science course with lecture, field and lab components for undergraduate course
- Enrollment of up to fifteen students

## Community Engagement Experience

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**Executive Director and Founder** February 2011 – present  
*Animalia Project, Chicago, Illinois*

- Founded this non-profit organization to provide training and engagement programs on climate change and urban sustainability

**Climate Change Specialist** June 2014 – August 2015  
*Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago, Illinois*

- Created tools and trainings to help conservation organizations collaborate with community organizations on climate change initiatives

### Extension Specialist

March 2007 – September 2014

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

**Watershed Specialist.** February 2011 – September 2014

*Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Chicago, Illinois*

- Coordinated multiple partners to develop watershed-friendly landscaping practices among professionals, municipalities and homeowners

**Extension Educator.** August 2009 – January 2011

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Cook County, Illinois*

- Created programming on gardening, climate and sustainability for residents and professionals

**Environmental Liaison to City of Chicago.** March 2007 – August 2009

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Chicago, Illinois*

- Developed innovative partnerships between the city and the university in environmental science

### Conservation Biologist

November 2004 – August 2005

*Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory. Madison, Wisconsin*

- Engaged with landowners to conduct research on privately owned wetlands

## Land Management Experience

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### Conservation Coordinator

April 2000 – December 2003

*Mount Agamenticus Steering Committee. York, Maine*

- Led the participation of 7 partner organizations in a cooperative stewardship program

### Preserve Stewardship Assistant

February – June 1997

*The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Silsbee, Texas*

- Monitored snake and insect populations, conducted stewardship activities and prescribed burns

## Sustainability Program Experience

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### Sustainability Consultant

January – October 1996

*United Nations Development Programme, New York, New York*

- Developed sustainability programs for the New York and international offices

### Sustainability Program Manager

August 1990 – August 1994

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas*

- Co-created of one of the first campus sustainability programs in the nation

## Academic Publications

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### Works in Progress

Deal, B., & Ask, S. (in preparation). Dynamical Urban Systems. In *Greening the Built Environment: Systems Thinking for Sustainability*. Cambridge University Press.

Ask, S. (in preparation). Lost Wetlands of Illinois: Using Historic Maps to Understand Landscape Change.

### Published Works

Zeng, Y., Deal, B., Ask, S., & Huang, T. (2024). The Landscape of Tranquility in Sweden: Lessons for Urban Design from Crowdsourced Data and Deep Learning. *Land*, 13(4).

Hatchett, L., Ask, S., Pollard, N., & Brown, L. (2014). Cook County Green Corps African American Trainee Experience in a Green Job Training Program. *Journal of Sustainability Education*.

Hamburg, S. P., & Ask, S. I. (1992). The Environmental Ombudsman at the University of Kansas. *New Directions for Higher Education*, 77, 55–63.

## Academic Conference Paper Presentations (Selected)

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**Ask, S.** (2025, March 28). *Scaling up: a method to help students expand from climate footprint journals to climate action planning*. Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture Annual Conference, Portland, OR.

**Ask, S.** (2025, March 27). *Lost wetlands of Illinois: using historic data to uncover landscape change*. Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture Annual Conference, Portland, OR.

**Ask, S., & Lily, D.** (2024, April 22). *Prairie University: Evaluating support for native plants on campus*. Climate Change and the Infrastructure of Research Symposium, Center for Advanced Study. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL.

**Ask, S.** (2024, April 5). *Landscape design and ecosystem services in 20th century Chicago: Extraction or speculation?* American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, Denver, CO.

**Ask, S., Deal, B., Huang, T., & Heavisides, T.** (2024, March 22). *Landscape-scale action to meet global climate goals: Guidance for decision-makers through the Illinois Ecosystem Services Planning Support System*. Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO.

**Ask, S.** (2023, August 8). *Field journaling for a non-traditional classroom: Independent student field observations and reflections on nature*. Resources for Ecology Education – Fair and Share (REEFS Workshop) at the Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.

**Ask, S.** (2022, April 21). *The European Green Deal: Discourses of nature conservation as an investment and responsibility*. European Union Studies Conference: Sustainable Europe, European Union Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL.

## Invited Presentations (Selected)

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### Erlanger Lecture

*Ways of looking at a landscape: views of climate change and climate action*. Architecture and Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois. October 5, 2023.

## Academic Fellowships and Awards (Selected)

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### Teacher Ranked as Excellent by their Students

Spring 2023, 2024 and 2025

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

- Received this recognition for courses in which I was the principal instructor or teaching assistant

### Pauline Tilton Kennedy Prize

Summer 2025

*Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

- Travel funding to study nature-based pedagogical practices in Sweden and Norway

### European Geosciences Union Travel Award

Summer 2025

*European Geosciences Union*

- Travel funding to participate in the Center for Natural Hazards & Disaster Science summer school

<b>Animal Studies Summer Institute Fellow</b>	Summer 2025
<i>Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected to participate in the Animal Studies Summer Institute</li> </ul>	
<b>Ecological Society of America REEFS Award</b>	Summer 2023
<i>Resources for Ecology Education – Fair and Share</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial award for sharing my teaching resource in a teaching workshop</li> </ul>	
<b>Anna Jensen Memorial Scandinavian Award</b>	Summer 2022
<i>Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel grant to support my study of Swedish language and landscapes</li> </ul>	
<b>Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship</b>	Summer 2022
<i>European Union Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Award to study Swedish language and culture in Uppsala, Sweden</li> </ul>	
<b>Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship</b>	Academic Year 2021 – 2022
<i>European Union Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Award to study Swedish, a less commonly taught language, at the University of Illinois</li> </ul>	
<b>Image of Research Semi-finalist</b>	2021
<i>Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My photograph and essay selected as a semi-finalist in university-wide photo competition.</li> </ul>	
<b>Bellafiore Doctoral Fellowship</b>	2020 – 2021
<i>Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded the departmental fellowship for one first year PhD student</li> </ul>	
<b>Grants (Selected)</b>	
<b>Co-Principal Investigator</b>	2014-2016
<i>US EPA Environmental Education Grant.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$138,000 Awarded to Chicago Botanic Garden for Connecting Climate and Communities Initiative</li> </ul>	
<b>Co-Principal Investigator</b>	2009-2013
<i>US EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$670,000 Awarded to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for Lawn to Lake Program</li> </ul>	
<b>Service to University and Profession (Selected)</b>	
<b>Peer Reviewer</b>	August 2023 – present
<i>Environmental Research Letters</i>	
<i>Sustainable Cities and Society</i>	
<b>Committee of the Department as PhD student representative</b>	8/24 – 5/25
<i>Department Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	
<b>Symposium Planning Committee for Natures of Space / Spaces of Nature Symposium</b>	11/24 – 2/25
<i>PhD Program in Architecture and Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	
<b>Undergraduate Research Symposium Judge in Food Plants and Animals section</b>	Spring 2024 & 2025
<i>Office of Undergraduate Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	

<b>Events Committee</b> <i>Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	2023-2024
<b>Erlanger Evening Co-planner</b> <i>PhD Program in Architecture and Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	Spring 2023
<b>Student Advisory Committee</b> <i>Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	2021-2022

## **Nationality**

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US Citizen

## **Language Skills**

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English: Fluent

Swedish: Intermediate / B2

Norwegian: Beginner (Heritage) / A2

French: Intermediate / B2

## **Professional Associations**

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American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

American Society for Environmental History (ASEH)

American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Ecological Society of America (ESA)