

Irina P. Sheshukova, M.S.

Instructor and AIFD Certified Floral Designer
Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources
Kansas State University
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Professional Interests:

- Dedicated horticulturist and floral designer with strong biological background and education in general biology and botany
- Professionally trained and certified as a floral designer; had experience leading a floral shop business, arranging flowers, and consulting customers and dealing with their needs
- Dedicated teacher with 5-year experience of teaching college students
- Self-motivated, dynamic and focused; quick learner; have good personality and very adaptable

Education:

- 1997 M.S. in General Biology / Botany
Department of Biology and Soil Science, Kazan State University, Kazan, Russia
Thesis Title: Historical Analysis of Vegetative Coverage of the Central Volga Region during the Pleistocene Period
- 2008 Diploma of Floral Arts and Sciences
Koehler & Damm's Institute of Floristry, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2407 East Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Professional Registration:

- 2008 Certified Professional Floral Designer (C.P.F.D.), State of Minnesota, U.S.A.
- 2019 Certified Floral Designer (C.F.D.) by A.I.F.D., U.S.A.
- 2020 Accredited Member of American Institute of Floral Designers (A.I.F.D.) by A.I.F.D., U.S.A
- 2022 Certified Floral Evaluator/Judge (C.E.J.) by A.I.F.D., U.S.A.

Professional Experience:

01/2015 – Present. Instructor, Kansas State University, Horticulture & Natural Resources

Teaching:

- Concepts of Floral Design (HORT 210)
- Advanced Floral Design (HORT 640)
- Awarded Faculty of the Semester Award by College of Agriculture

Outreach:

- Involved in National and State FFA Career Development Events
- Supervised and consulted Student Horticulture Club for various events
- Represented department at university and college-wide events

01/2009 – 12/2014. Freelance Florist and Floral Design Instructor

- Taught private floral design classes
- Arranged floral arrangements for various occasions

10/2008 – 01/2009. Florist. Westloop Floral.

1130 Westport Dr, Manhattan, KS 66503. Phone: (785) 537-2845

- Worked in a floral shop on a busy daily schedule, including working with customers, selecting, ordering flowers from a wholesale provider, processing products, and keeping a shop clean
- Arranged a wide variety of floral arrangements of different styles on a timely schedule

08/2007 – 07/2008. Lead Floral Designer. Nedved's Flowers.

2583 7th St W, St. Paul, MN 55116. Phone: (651) 690-5474, (877) 293-8213

- Led floral shop on a busy daily schedule, including working with customers, selecting and ordering flowers from a wholesale provider, processing products, and keeping a shop clean
- Significantly increased shop profit and clientele within only 12 months
- Arranged a wide variety of floral arrangements of different styles on a timely schedule
- Designed floral arrangements for weddings, proms, funerals, and other events including events for the Minnesota Governor's office and the Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce
- Worked with online floral databases (Teleflora and BloomNet) and processed online orders
- Have knowledge and worked with house plants, set up European gardens, and consulted customers on how to take care of house plants and garden flowers
- Worked with silk flowers
- Served as a studio photographer and created a shop portfolio

08/1997 – 06/1999. Horticulturist and Instructor.

Division of Applied Botany and Floral Design, Kazan Nature Center, Kazan, Russia

- Worked as a senior horticulturist (horticulturist until 1998) in Kazan Nature Center garden and conservatory
- Taught a course on general biology for elementary school students
- Determined requirements and supervised production of various types of plants for teaching and research
- Developed hands-on materials for educational horticulture programs and organized field-trips and demonstration projects
- Worked on development, maintenance, and operation of Kazan Nature Center garden
- Supervised everyday maintenance and operation of Kazan Nature Center Conservatory (providing water and plant food, applying insecticides to prevent diseases, plant pruning, *etc.*)
- Arranged and presented plants and flowers in floral design competitions and ceremony decorations for business events

09/1995 – 07/1997. Graduate Research Assistant.

Division of Botany, Department of Biology and Soil Science, Kazan State University, Kazan, Russia

- Conducted research on paleo botanical patterns in Central Volga Region
- Chemically processed soil and rock core samples and extracted fossilized species, spores and pollen
- Analyzed vegetative fossils, spores and pollen from various depths of core samples representing flora of Pleistocene
- Worked with optical and digital microscopes
- Utilized biological statistical software packages to analyze data

09/1990 – 08/1995. Research Assistant.

Laboratory of Natural Resources Conservation, Botanical Garden, Department of Biology and Soil Science, Kazan State University, Kazan, Russia

- Worked in crop planting, harvesting, and processing from agricultural fields
- Conducted laboratory analysis and chemical extraction of the *Amaranthus*
- Worked on adaptation strategies and tolerance of *Amaranthus* to various environmental stresses prevalent in the Central Volga Region of Russia

- Processed *Amaranthus* plant and extracted various vitamins and plant-derived flavonoids such as rutin, beta-carotene, and quercetin, mainly from leaves
- Worked with biological statistical software packages to analyze data and develop strategies to improve tolerance and yields of *Amaranthus* in cold regions
- Worked as an instructor in summer internship programs

Teaching Experience:

HORT 210 – Concepts of Floral Design. Lead Instructor.

Department: Horticulture and Natural Resources. Kansas State University
 When: Offered every Spring and Fall. 2015—2022
 Credit hours: 3 Student Credit-Hours
 Load: Two hours recitation and three hours studio a week
 Enrollment: 3-4 sections; each section has 20 students for a total of 60-80 students per semester
 Instruction: Four hours recitation (2-h for sections A1/A2; 2-h for section B)
 Six hours labs (2-h for each section A1, A2, and B)
Summary: An introduction to the use of flowers and related products with emphasis on fundamentals of design. Includes quizzes on Flower ID, homework assignments, preparation and defense of course design project, and floral portfolio. K-State 8 Area of Aesthetic Interpretation.

HORT 640 – Advanced Floral Design. Lead Instructor.

Department: Horticulture and Natural Resources. Kansas State University
 When: Offered in Spring, 2018, 2020, 2022
 Credit hours: 3 Student Credit-Hours
 Load: Two hours recitation and two hours studio a week
 Enrollment: 1 section; 20 students
 Instruction: 2 hours recitation, two hours labs
Summary: Advanced topics on the use of flowers and related products with emphasis on fundamentals of design. Preparation and defense of individual design projects, showcase and presentation in Throckmorton. K-State 8 Area of Aesthetic Interpretation.

HORT 301/390 – Horticulture Practicum. Lead instructor.

Department: Horticulture and Natural Resources. Kansas State University
 When: Fall 2016 – Fall 2019, Spring 2022, Fall 2022
 Credit hours: 1 Student Credit-Hour
 Load: Two hours studio a week
 Enrollment: Selected students (Cassandra Homan, Brett Williams, Haley Burgett, Bailee Davis, Kate Schoenberg) – 6 semesters
Summary: Individual project on advanced topics of flower design.

Honors and Awards:

- 2015 – Faculty of the Semester Award, College of Agriculture, Kansas State University
- 2016 – Nominated for Faculty of the Semester Award, College of Agriculture, Kansas State University
- 2018 – Linda Kay Educational Scholarship. Baisch & Skinner Wholesale Floral Distributor
- 2022 – American Floral Endowment Grant. The James and Helen Phillip Scholarship Fund

Invited Presentations:

- 2008 – Annual Rose Floral Design Seminar and Competition, Koehler & Dramm’s Institute of Floristry, Minneapolis, MN

Professional Development:

- 2017 – The Teaching Professor Conference, St. Louis, MO. June 2–4
- 2018 – Annual Floral Design Show by Illinois State Florists Association. Decatur, IL. March 6–9
- 2018 – World Floral Expo, Chicago, IL. March 10-11

- 2018 – Five online educational courses by the American Institute of Floral Designers
- 2019 – American Institute of Floral Designers international symposium. Las Vegas, Nevada. July 2-11, Participated in and passed a Professional Floral Design Evaluation.
- 2019 – Techniques of contemporary design and certification preparation class, Texas A&M University, Texas, June, 23, 2019. Earned 1.6 Continuing education Units(CEU's)
- 2019 – American Institute of Floral Designers international symposium, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 11, World class hands-on design experience with Gregor Lersch
- 2019 – American Institute of Floral Designers international symposium, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 7, “Fun with foliage“ with Sharrai Morgan-Faulkner AIFD, CFD
- 2019 – American Institute of Floral Designers international symposium, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 8, “Unique techniques with wire” with Wendy Andrade AIFD, CFD
- 2020 – “Connected faculty summit for higher education”. May 13-14, Remote
- 2021 – Certified Evaluator/ Judge program. May 24-28, Remote
- 2021 – The connected Faculty Summit, June 9-10, Remote
- 2021 – Flower math and 3-course wedding bundle. June 27-28. Remote course
- 2022 - “Connected faculty summit for higher education”. June 8-9, Remote
- 2022 – American Institute of Floral Designers international symposium, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 4-9
- 2022 – American Institute of Floral Designers international symposium, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 4-9, “Evolution of Shapes-Wedding Design” Education session with Max van de Sluis
- 2022 – American Institute of Floral Designers international symposium, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 4-9, “Hand Tailored Botanical Structures” Hands-on design class with Jorge Uribe AIFD, CFD
- 2022 – American Institute of Floral Designers international symposium, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 4-9, “The Perfect Picture” Hands-on design class with Nico Alsemgeest
- 2022 – American Institute of Floral Designers international symposium, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 4-9, “Blooming Beyond Your Brand” Hands-on design class

Professional Certification:

2007 – 2008 – Koehler & Damm’s Institute of Floristry

Location: 2407 East Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Completed 308 hours of theoretical and hands-on courses:

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| • Floristry 1 – Basic Design | 40 hours (completed 06/08/2007) |
| • Floristry 2 – Advanced Floral Design | 40 hours (completed 06/22/2007) |
| • Floristry 3 – European & Party Design | 40 hours (completed 07/27/2007) |
| • Bridal Bouquets Design | 18 hours (completed 06/28/2007) |
| • Today’s Tribute Design | 18 hours (completed 08/02/2007) |
| • Corsages and Boutonnieres | 18 hours (completed 09/20/2007) |
| • Ceremony Decorations Design | 18 hours (completed 10/25/2007) |
| • Holiday Design | 18 hours (completed 12/13/2007) |
| • Permanent Botanical Design | 18 hours (completed 04/04/2008) |
| • Wedding/Celebration Design | 40 hours (completed 05/02/2008) |
| • Floristry 4 – Master Class | 40 hours (completed 07/11/2008) |

2018 – American Institute of Floral Designers

Completed and passed 5 online courses to become an Accredited Member of AIFD:

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| • Introduction to Floral Design | (completed 09/25/2018) |
| • Elements and Principles of Design | (completed 09/25/2018) |
| • Design Techniques and Applications | (completed 09/25/2018) |
| • Arrangements: Every day and Sympathy | (completed 10/30/2018) |
| • Personal Flowers: To Wear and Carry | (completed 10/30/2018) |

2019 – Benz School of Floral Design (pending), Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University

Location: MS 2133, College Station, TX 77843

- Contemporary Techniques and Certification Prep Class (06/22–23/2019)

2022 – Certified Floral Evaluator/ Judge, recognized by AIFD and the Floral Industry, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 5

Outreach Activity:

- 2015 to present – FFA Career Development Event. Provided a variety of floral arrangements to include in the retail floriculture practicum
- Fall 2015 – K-State Agriculturist magazine article. Interviewed by Audrey Schmitz (Ag Communications). Article featured HORT 210 course description, information on instructor, and student experiences and reviews
- 2015 – Conducted a master-class on floral arrangement for 20 nine-year olds from Manhattan Girl Scout club (organized by Dr. Kim Williams). February 12
 - a. Taught a 1-hour class
 - b. Arrangements donated to local nursery house
- Spring 2015 – Video with Dr. Kim Williams broadcasted on the local K-State TV channel. Interviewed by Lindsey Elliott (Division of Communicating and Marketing, KSU). Video featured how to make simple arrangements for Valentine’s Day
- 2015 – Kansas State Confucius Institute Opening. Invited to promote Floral Design activities at HFRR. Created 23 floral arrangements. April 7
- Fall 2016 – Ag report article. Interviewed for article titled “Beyond the Classroom”
- 2017 – K-State gardens event. Created 6 floral arrangements for The Board of Trustees. September 29
- 2017 – Black diversity program. Created 3 arrangements, April 13
- 2018 – K-State Foundation event in the Union ballroom. Created 20 centerpieces; planted 250 succulents April 7
- 2021 – Coordinated departmental participation in FFA Horticulture Career Development Events. Organized Floriculture General Knowledge Exam and Floriculture Plant ID, May 3-7, Remote
- Participated in Kansas FFA Career Development Events, The virtual Awards Ceremony
- 2021 – Promoted Floriculture and the HNR Department by conducting a “Petal it Forward” national event with Dr. Chad Miller (K-State campus), October 20
Press release in K-State Today: <https://www.k-state.edu/today/announcement/?id=78013>
- 2022 – Floral design Master class in Wamego public library for Wamego high school students, April 21
- 2022 – K-State Union Program Council. Purchased flowers/greens and taught a floral design outreach event/class for 90 K-State students during the UPC event “Spring into Summer” on April 22
- 2022 – K-State Athletics in fundraising department, the Ahearn Fund event. Created 40 centerpieces for the event “The Power cat Auction”, April 23rd
- 2022 – Coordinated departmental participation in FFA Horticulture Career Development Events. Organized Floriculture General Knowledge Exam and Floriculture Plant ID, May 1-3
- 2022 – Promoted Floriculture and the HNR Department by conducting a “Petal it Forward” national event with Dr. Chad Miller and UPC (K-State campus), October 19
- 2022 - Organized and conducted an Extension educational event “Holiday floral designs” workshop with Cheryl Boyer, December 2. The link from K-State Today (November 15th)
<https://outlook.office.com/mail/inbox/id/AAQkADrkOWNIZDBkLWRkNjEtNDBINi05NDE0LTNIZDg2ZDdkZDhiZQAQANthAla%2Bup1lvcSC6Qo0HdA%3D>
- 2022 - Extension educational video: Holiday wreath, 8 min video by KSRE posted on YouTube and Facebook, December 13, 2022. This video release from K-State Research and Extension is available online at www.ksre.k-state.edu/news/stories/2022/12/horticulture-making-a-holiday-wreath.html
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