

Dorothy Thorndike Botanic Gardens Internship 2015-2016

This internship was established in fond memory of Dorothy Dudley Thorndike DS '75, to further the impact of her passion for plants and nature on students and visitors to the Wellesley College Botanic Gardens.

The Dorothy Thorndike interns work to connect people to plants, nature, and the environment, using the botanical resources of the Margaret Ferguson Greenhouses, Alexandra Botanic Garden, and Hunnewell Arboretum of Wellesley College. The interns work with the Botanic Gardens Director and Assistant Director to develop events and exhibits; topics are determined by current needs and the interns' interests. As student ambassadors for the Wellesley College Botanic Gardens (WCBG), the interns also lead the Botanistas student organization.

The Dorothy Thorndike interns (one or two per academic year):

- learn about science outreach and communication;
- help plan, organize, and publicize special events and activities, such as the Greenhouse Light Show, Tree Mobs and Spring Smoothie Night;
- build excitement about Global Flora, our project to re-imagine and rehouse the Ferguson Greenhouses' permanent collection of plants;
- maintain an active presence for the Botanic Gardens via social media;
- work on special projects according to their interests and the needs of the Botanic Gardens;
- give a presentation about their work in late spring at the annual Thorndike Tea;
- have a flexible work schedule averaging 10 hours per week;
- receive a stipend of \$3000 for the academic year, beginning with Orientation week, plus optional January project (for an additional stipend).

Eligibility

This internship is open to all current Wellesley College students who will be returning to campus for the following academic year. The primary requirement is a love for plants. Preference is given to students who have taken BISC 108 or have other botanical or horticultural experience.

Application Process

The application deadline is **9 am on Friday, 17 April**. To apply, email your resumé with a cover letter to Kristina Jones (kjones@wellesley.edu). The cover letter should include the following:

- Describe what you expect to gain from the program and how the internship relates to your goals or academic interests.
- Briefly explain specific qualifications you have that will contribute to your success at this internship (e.g. academics, past botanical or horticultural experiences).
- Give the full name of at least one Wellesley professor who has agreed to serve as a reference for you (no reference letter necessary – we will contact references as needed).

Selection Process

Well-qualified applicants will be invited to interview with the selection committee. Final selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Demonstration of initiative, maturity, adaptability, and responsibility;
- Evidence of preparation and interest through relevant course work, employment, travel, or other experience;
- Enthusiasm in conducting oneself as a representative of Wellesley College and the Wellesley College Botanic Gardens.

Once a student has been offered the Thorndike Internship she will have **one week** to accept or decline the internship. The accepting student will be required to sign a letter of commitment to the program and to attend an event next spring celebrating the internship and passing it down to the next Thorndike intern.

*Jointly sponsored by family and friends of Dorothy D. Thorndike,
and the Friends of the Wellesley College Botanic Gardens.*



Dorothy Dudley Thorndike was a life-long learner, graduating from Wellesley in 1975 as a Davis Scholar. Upon graduation, she established a landscape design business and was a successful landscape planner for 25 years. The Cameron Garden, which she designed (next to the Ferguson Greenhouses), is a fine example of her aesthetic sensibility. In addition to her volunteer efforts at Wellesley College, she was active in the New England Wild Flower Society, the Charles River Valley Garden Club, and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Dorothy won the Bulkley Medal at the New England Spring Flower Show in 1966. An ardent environmentalist with a "right plant, right place" philosophy, Dorothy always gave 110% in her work and volunteer activities. Her fellow volunteers as well as hundreds of visitors to the Margaret C. Ferguson Greenhouses have been the beneficiaries of her knowledge and enthusiasm for both Wellesley College and the diversity of Earth's plant life.