



Grant Walsh

Education can be a two-way exchange. As an instructor, I can tell you that I have learned so much from my students, and many of them have made lasting impacts on me. One such student was Grant Walsh. Grant was an extraordinary creative force who inspired me and made a significant impact on the Illinois State University Horticulture Center during his time as a Fine Arts undergraduate at ISU.

I came to know Grant when he began taking horticulture classes because of his love for plants. Grant and I also shared an appreciation for Martha Stewart's artistic and educational flair. Grant always had a can-do attitude and a thought process that was most admirably, out-of-the-box. During the couple of years that I worked with Grant, he created all the marketing fliers, posters, invitations, scarecrows, and newsletters for the Horticulture Center.

During his independent study project in the Spring of 2009, Grant created a series of sculptures, and through them, taught me that sculptures in the garden are akin to candles on a birthday cake — the finishing touches that give an object or place its sense of character.

When I learned of Grant's passing, I experienced profound sadness and loss. In thinking about my time with him, I am grateful for our common appreciation for creative beauty, and I feel moved to share his story and passion with future generations by establishing the Grant Walsh Student Artist in Residence Program at the ISU Horticulture Center (GWSARP).

Jessica Chambers
ISU Horticulture Center Director