

## Campus Section

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### Plants show the Bible's Creation

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ABBIE BINGHAM | Scroll Photography

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An open house put on by the students of the Applied Plant Sciences (APS) Department will be held March 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Ezra Taft Benson Building.

The theme of the event is the Creation depicted in the first chapter of Genesis in the King James Bible.

Tickets can be purchased for \$4 at the ticket office or \$6 at the door.

A display was shown two weeks ago in the Manwaring Center, where students in the interpretive design class of the APS Department created floral arrangements that matched several of the pictures on the second floor by Freshens to promote the open house.

“[It] was a way for us to show that we are educated in designs, and we can push our limits and ... there’s more you can do with flowers than what you see everyday,” said Lauren Smith, a senior studying horticulture and the director of the open house.

Smith said students who take the Wedding and Event Planning course are divided up into an organization committee and a design committee for the show.

Ben Romney, the instructor who teaches the course, said he and the students set up a system early on in the semester so the students could start meeting in their assigned groups and know what to do.

“You have publicity, somebody has to take care of ordering the flowers, someone takes care of them when they come in, somebody has to work out the traffic flow (for the show), etc.,” Romney said.

He said this event is similar to a recital, in the sense of displaying the hard work, designs and creations the students have planned and made for the school, family and friends to come see.

“The whole idea of [the event] is to give the students a chance to have as close to a real experience as possible while they’re at school because it’s hard to do,” Romney said.

Margaret Setterstrom, a senior studying horticulture and one of the co-directors, said the hardest thing to do is communicate the ideas and preparation the students need to do for the event.

“I think people are really visual in this major, so sometimes you have to just draw it out,” Setterstrom said.

Elizabeth Elisalde, a junior studying horticulture and another co-director for the show, said the groups have been doing well, but when they have had struggles, the teams were able to work it out easily.

“We [the directors] are like your problem solvers, so we’ll go around and help the groups that are having troubles with things,” Smith said.

Elisalde said Romney and the team of directors take control, but allow the students to develop their own ideas. Then they come in and act like customers.

“[We] come in with our ideas and say ‘This is kind of what I want. Can you make something for me?’ and then give them the freedom there,” Elisalde said.

Smith said at first it was hard for the teams to understand how to represent the creation with floral designs.

However, she said it has been fun to watch the groups interpret the days differently.

“Some of the groups went really spiritual with it. Like one of the groups is doing the three white dresses, like that poem, [“My Three White Dresses” by Linda Gay Perry Nelson],” Smith said.

The students were divided into groups, with each focusing on one of the days of the Creation. The pieces will be featured in the show along with other pieces of designs done by the students.

Along with all of the APS Department, other departments such as the Department of Home and Family, will be participating in the event.

“This is our first year doing things with the fashion show,” Smith said.

Julann Blake, a home and family instructor who is over the fashion show, said the students are excited, but nervous, because the show is one week earlier for them than usual, giving them less time to design and sew their pieces.

“If you have spring fever, this is the place to be to see and smell many beautiful flowers, plants and creations,” Blake said. “The theme, Creation, is perfect for this event.”

Smith said she loves getting people outside of the APS Department involved.

“I also love that we’re doing a fashion show, because we get to be really creative,” Smith said. “We’re making umbrellas, big hats, big hairpieces and things that we don’t normally get to make.”

Elisalde said each textile design for the fashion show will have a floral arrangement, like any wedding, fashion show or other event would have.

“I’m just excited to try something new and different. It takes us to a higher level, to show a huge amount of skills,” Setterstrom said.

Another design group is designing for day five, which is, according to Genesis 1:20-23, when fish and fowl were put on the earth.

“There will be lots of feathers and real fish,” said Mary Gross, a sophomore studying horticulture who is in the day five group.

Gross said her team’s floral arrangements will be under water or floating.

Another group is assigned day six, which is, according to Genesis 1:24-31, when God placed man on Earth.

Tiffany Henry, a junior studying horticulture and member of the day six group, said their room is going to be a multi-cultural theme, to represent all people of the world in a Garden of Eden.

“All life’s biggest events and milestones have flowers incorporated into them,” said Kaloni Jensen, a junior majoring in marriage and family studies and a leader of the sixth day group. “So it gives [the visitors of the show] a perspective on ways they can be different, and their personality styles and their themes can be drawn into the event.”

Henry said her team wants to show visitors what they can do with flowers and open their minds to more possibilities.

“Sometimes people don’t know what we do — that it’s a waste of a major,” said Natalie Hack, a junior majoring in university studies. “They don’t fully understand the time that it takes to do everything.”

Elisalde said people should come because they can get a full experience and understanding of what APS students do for their majors.

“It only happens once a year, and it’s a great opportunity [to see] a fun event, and there are some new and exciting things this year,” Elisalde said. “And we hope that people will come and enjoy it.”

Romney said a girl who participated in the show last year said she had never felt so much light and color all at once.

“When people come into a room that the students have put so much into, there’s a reaction, there’s a feeling,” Romney said. “You can sense the spirit of what they were trying to do.”

Romney said this idea of using the Creation as the theme came in part from a talk by President Dieter F. Uchtdorf of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the general women’s broadcast in 2008.

President Uchtdorf discussed creativity and the power that men and women have to create.

“The desire to create is one of the deepest yearnings of the human soul,” said President Uchtdorf. “No matter our talents, education, backgrounds or abilities, we each have an inherent wish to create something that did not exist before.”

Romney said he hopes people will capture that vision when they come.

“It’s not just about weddings. This is about life and creativity,” Romney said. “It’s about really showing the beauty of Heavenly Father’s creations. The theme this year is Creation for that reason.”