

Terry L. Ettinger

From: Emily Menendez emmenendez@esf.edu
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 12:21 PM
To: Terry L. Ettinger
Subject: Re: Plant prop videos/ Hi! (Oops - meant to save not send the first time;-)

Terry!!!

Thank you so much for getting back to me so quickly, and with so much helpful info! I tried to send you an email on Tuesday, but I'm not sure if it didn't send because I attached too many pictures or if you didn't receive it. Or maybe you did and you've just been busy with the million things going on with you! Either way, I'm re-sending the email, so if you did get it by chance already, please disregard (but also hi again :)

I had forgotten that you made a website for the class; what a fantastic resource! Thanks again for sending me the link (and to your "grow what you eat" course!!!) I'm excited to check both of them out.

And of course you can include my email in your comments in favor of video lectures. I really appreciated the time and effort that you put into creating such a valuable teaching resource, and I think that it's something many other ESF students would benefit from if they were incorporated more into the teaching on campus. Fingers crossed that the other professors will come around to the idea.

It was so great to hear from you and all of the stuff you are up to! I will forever be upset that I never got to take your "Grow what you eat" course, but I can't wait to check out your website (I'm sure it's a wealth of knowledge, I can't wait to learn more!!) And of course, I'm always happy to hear that you have another group of victims... I mean students to teach grafting and budding to :) It's great to know that plant prop is going strong, and really- I meant every word I said about your class. AMAZING!!

Lastly, Nick wanted me to pass on his sincerest thanks for sharing your video lectures with him. You are an impressive teacher and I know he's going to learn a lot!

I will keep you updated with our experience here on the farm as things start to pick up more in the warmer months. Until then, here's some pictures of only a few of the many many things going on with us! (Pictures to follow in another email that will hopefully send this time!)

Very best,
Emily

On Mon, Mar 19, 2018 at 4:40 PM Terry L. Ettinger <tlettinger@esf.edu> wrote:

Emily,

WOW, what a way to end the day - it is SOOOOOOOOOO good to hear from you, and your too kind words made my eyes a bit misty!!!! There truly is no great complement a teacher can receive than to have a (former) student say that they have made a difference, however small, in their lives after graduation. Your thoughts literally just made the many, many, many evening, weekend, holiday hours I've spent putting those videos together COMPLETELY worth the effort:-)

It is a long story, but your request could not have come at a more pivotal time. Several of us here at ESF that have incorporated video "lectures" into our classes are trying to convince, cajole and otherwise encourage and support those faculty that are not yet convinced that anything but traditional "sage on the stage" lectures can be an effective teaching/learning strategy. In fact, I've been working on and off over the past several weeks on a rebuttal to a discussion at an EFB faculty meeting where the ultimate vote was overwhelmingly to maintain the status quo of traditional lectures as the primary teaching strategy. If you wouldn't mind, I would really like to include your email as part of my comments - may I?

Also, with Tim Toland's help (he's a Landscape Architecture faculty member at ESF), I just conducted a mid-semester "formative" evaluation of the plant propagation class - essentially asking the sixteen students in the class what is working for them, what is not working for them, and what they suggest I do to make the class better over the rest of the semester. I've attached the summary for your review, too;-)

Meanwhile , speaking of the plant prop videos, you are always welcome to them - and pass along to whomever you feel might benefit from them;-) In fact, they're now imbedded in an increasingly extensive website that I've been building out since the first of the year for the class (the link is below). I will continue to update the website as long as I'm teaching the course, so feel free to refer back to it as needed in the future.

<http://www.esf.edu/efb/ettinger/plantprop/index.htm>

And wait, there's more

As a bonus for your kind words, below is a link to my "Grow What You Eat" course website! It's not as built out as the Plant Propagation course site - but I'll be adding a lot more over the coming summer in preparation for teaching the class for the third time this coming fall.

<http://www.esf.edu/efb/ettinger/gwye/index.htm>

Well, that's just about a wrap from here in Central New York. Just two more things

First, we've just started the section on grafting and budding in the Plant Propagation class. So, I'll be heading to the store this week to buy a couple of cases of bandaids, sutures, etc. just in case;-)

Also, it seems I remember asking for pictures of your experience? Don't forget;-)

Emily, thank you, again for your kind words - they really do mean a lot to me. Enjoy the videos!

Best wishes to you and Nick - always!

Terry

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From: Emily Menendez
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 5:06 PM
To: Terry L. Ettinger
Subject: Plant prop videos/ Hi!

Hi Terry,
Hope you are well and enjoying the spring semester!

Today marks the start of mine and Nicks fourth week here in Firebaugh, CA working at Lone Willow Ranch. The farm is awesome!! Lots of challenges, fun new experiences, and tons of delicious food. We are continuing to learn more and more about how an organic farming operation works, all of the planning and preparation that goes into a growing season/maintaining a yearly operation, and how biodynamics fits into everything. It has been a crazy month and things are only getting busier as we head into the summer!

Since we have been here though, I have gained a whole new appreciation for your plant propagation class. While I have enjoyed being able to try my own plant prop experiments at home since taking the class, it has been extremely satisfying to start applying those skills towards my career. You taught us SO MANY things that I use every day here at the farm, from different ways to get seed to germinate/how to read and understand seed labels/different soil media types and their uses/how to propagate different plants with various techniques/ the list goes on and on! It has really been satisfying to start working here while already having a firm understanding of greenhouse production/plant propagation from your class, and for that I am extremely grateful.

Needless to say, I have been speaking very highly of our course since I have been able to put those skills to use on the farm. That being said, Nick has been having difficulty understanding the basics of why we do what we do here, and although I have been able to explain some of the principles/techniques to him, I feel like he would really benefit from getting to watch some of your video lectures. If at all possible, I was wondering if you could somehow forward/give me access to some of your video lectures from the plant prop class so that Nick could take a look at them/I could get a refresher? I know both of us would really appreciate it. But also I understand that it's your property and course content isn't always able to be give out, so I totally understand if my request is too much. Or if you have any external sources to share, we are always trying to learn more! Okay sorry for rambling so much :) Looking forward to hearing from you soon, and once again I hope all is well at the ESF greenhouses!

Very best,
Emily