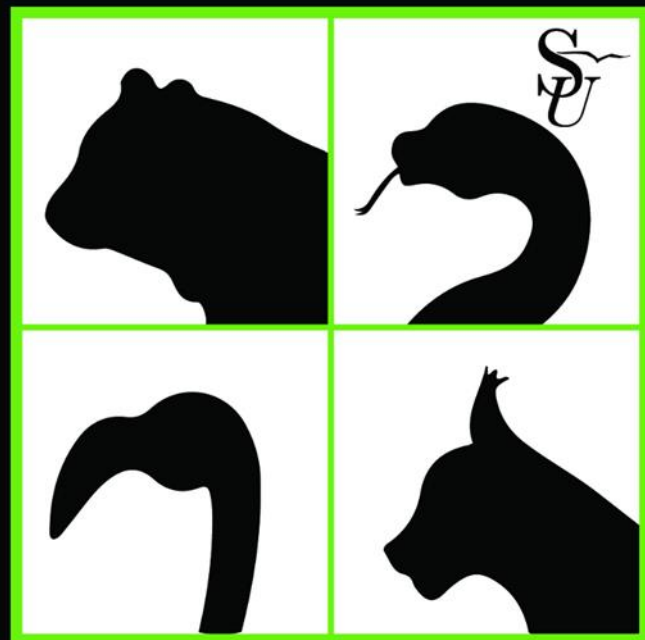


Salisbury Zooniversity Advisory Group (SZAG) Fostering collaboration between Salisbury's University and Zoo



An FLC is a Faculty Learning Community. These are intensive faculty development experiences that are academic yearlong, structured, multidisciplinary communities that have specific objectives. The Zoo FLC was created to formalize the relationship between Salisbury University and the Salisbury Zoo. Projects were developed that benefited SU faculty and students as well as the zoo.

The FLC was created in 2018. As stated above an FLC is supposed to last one year. After continuing to be renewed every year the need for a permanent committee was established. The Zoo FLC became the Salisbury Zooniversity Advisory Group (SZAG) in 2022 and is housed in the Henson Science School. The SZAG includes faculty from across campus. We have members from Biology, Art, Communications, Psychology, History, Physics, Education, and the Library. All faculty and students are welcome to join or just take advantage of the resources of the committee.



SZAG

Salisbury Zooniversity
Advisory Group



What you need:

- Faculty at a local university who want to do research at your institution and projects at your zoo or aquarium that need doing!
- There were faculty at my University that did projects at the zoo but they were not well coordinated and sometimes difficult for the zoo to accommodate.
- I proposed the FLC to make the process more organized and this has benefitted all parties. While many of the projects are research based they don't have to be – we have had art installations, education programs, music and marketing projects.
- So what you need is someone from each side to get the process started and then see how this fits with each side's needs.

Projects Examples:

- Installation of a "blood sleeve" by SU faculty to facilitate the taking of blood samples from the zoo's Andean bears
- "Cast Metal Menagerie" yearly student competition and art installation at the zoo by the art department – currently in its third year.
- Psychology's Living Laboratory Project
- Biology Courses using the zoo as a resource
- presentation on the work of the FLC/SZAG at AZA and SU Conferences
- Animal enrichment projects at the zoo including a waterslide for the otters and feeding structure for the alpacas.
- Examples of research projects utilizing the zoo animals: looking at isotopes in burrowing owls; impact of visitors on animal behavior; cortisol levels in Canadian Lynx (ongoing); survey of wild dung beetles in the zoo park;
- sensory backpacks for special needs visitors
- Sensory Friendly events themed for special days such as Earth Day and Halloween
- Videos for the zoo on various topics such as Wildlife Trafficking
- SU faculty speaker series for Zoo Members
- STEAM boxes on pollinators and food webs

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