

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amanda Jedlinsky

703-213-5802

ajedlinsky@safnow.org

William Miller Receives SAF's Alex Laurie Award for Research and Education



ALEXANDRIA, VA – AUGUST 20, 2026 – When a disorder threatened Oriental lilies, William “Bill” Miller, Ph.D., helped identify the cause and solutions growers still use today — one example of his nearly four decades turning research into practical solutions for floriculture. For his contributions to floriculture research and education, the Cornell University professor is the 2026 recipient of the Society of American Florists’ Alex Laurie Award.

The Alex Laurie Award recognizes significant contributions to floriculture research and education. Miller received the honor Aug. 20 at the Stars of the Industry Awards Ceremony, held during SAF’s 141st annual convention in Amelia Island, Florida.

About Bill:

Raised on a bulb farm in California, Miller earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Davis, and his master’s and doctoral degrees from Cornell University. He returned to Cornell in 1998, where he led the Flower Bulb Research Program for more than two decades.

Miller’s research has advanced production and postharvest practices for flower bulb crops. His work on lily leaf yellowing contributed to the registration of Fascination, a plant growth regulator now used on an estimated 75% of U.S.-grown lilies. Beyond his research, Miller is recognized for his ability to educate and mentor the next generation of floriculture professionals. “Over decades, he has trained a generation of floriculture professionals who now serve in academia, industry leadership, extension, and consulting roles,” says former student Cheni Filios, seed trade compliance manager for Ball Horticultural Company.

Miller’s passion for horticulture also extends into his community. Working with the Ithaca Garden Club, he helped spearhead the planting of more than 180,000 flower bulbs throughout the city.

[Event photos are available here.](#)

About The Society of American Florists

The Society of American Florists is the association that connects and cultivates a thriving floral community through training, education, marketing resources and advocacy. Our vision: The power of flowers in every life. For more information, visit safnow.org.