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The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 2 Issue 7

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



Fall Pumpkin in the garden at Glendale.

Volume 2, Issue 7

Seeding The Future

Please join us October 20th at 1:00pm in AAAS Room

Dr. Windy Gordon, Professor of Psychology, at Western Carolina University, will give his "Voice of the Rivers" presentation to Dr. Savage's ENVS 203 class and Prof. Lane's HUM 101 class. Gordon recounts his 1997 kayaking trip from the headwaters of the French Broad River to the Gulf of Mexico at the end of the Mississippi River.

Cultivating the College Farm from Field to the Classroom was the subject of a two-day conference at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. ENVS major Katherine Pearson, '14, attended the conference October 14th-15th to learn about beginning and utilizing farms and gardens in undergraduate liberal arts education.

Through their Center for Sustainability Education, Dickinson College has established a 180-acre working farm with sustainable operations that provides produce to the college's dining facilities and a local food bank. The College Farm is run by staff, student workers, and interns.

The conference centered around four tracks: *Nuts and Bolts*, the logistics of the farm and operations;

Teaching and Learning, using the farm and garden to educate; *Sustainable Growth*, the startup and growth of the program; and *Breaking Bread, Building Markets*, the connection and partnership with the community.

Katie was excited to meet students from other schools to find out what kinds of activities are happening elsewhere – for example, students who harvest garden products and cook them in the school's dining service in their own separate line. She also learned that many colleges that now have small-scale farms began with small gardens started with just a few people.

The main lesson? "Persistence is key for developing successful programs – starting small while thinking big."

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- Each Saturday in October
- Hub City Farmer's Market:** Each Saturday, 8:00am-noon, located at the Magnolia Street Train Depot (just 2 blocks from campus). Shop for locally grown, seasonal fruits and vegetables, and much more. Visit www.hubcityfm.org.
- October 20th
- Friends of Piedmont Audubon:** Cate Ryba and other representatives from the City of Spartanburg will talk about the city's plan to expand the kinds of materials that can be recycled curbside. This meeting will take place at St. Francis Anglican Church on Webber Road (just around the corner from Jesse Boyd Elementary) at 7:30pm.
- October 22nd
- Converse College Computer Recycling Day:** 9:00am-3:00pm. Recycle your computer components, including hard drives, monitors (\$8), mice, cables, fax machines, telephones/cell phones, scanners. Any metal or electronics, except for TVs. Questions? Contact Technical Knock Out, (205) 451-0180 or www.technicalko.net.
- October 31st
- Deadline for South Carolina Wildlife Federation Scholarships:** Two South Carolina students studying environmental education in South Carolina schools of higher education will each be awarded a \$500 scholarship in December 2011. Contact Dr. Savage if you are interested in applying for this educational grant.
- November 11th
- Natural Science Seminar Series:** USC Upstate will host this series at 5:00pm in Tukey Theater. Tonight's topic is *Responses of Australian Freshwater Turtles to Drought and Urbanization* by UNC Pembroke professor, Dr. John Roe.
- November 12th
- Wild & Scenic Film Festival:** Presented by Upstate Forever and Chapman Cultural Center to raise awareness of environmental issues and the importance of clean air and water in the upstate. Doors open at 12:00pm with door prizes and gear giveaways. Ticket price: \$10, available at Upstate Forever, 327-0090, or David W. Reid Theater lobby the day of the event.
- Ongoing
- Spartanburg B-cycle:** *Partners for Active Living* has set up new self-service bike rental stations (*B-stations*) on the Rail Trail and in Morgan Square. Rent a bike for as little as \$5/24 hours. See their website for additional membership options, www.active-living.org.
- Black Science Annex Courtyard:** Your help is needed in the courtyard of the Environmental Studies Department. Please come by any time and pull some weeds in the garden (especially the brick patio). Thanks!

GRAD SCHOOL PROFILE:

Columbia University – Environmental Science and Policy MPA

Columbia University offers a Masters in Public Administration degree in Environmental Science and Policy (ESP) through its School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). Their goal is “to cultivate a new profession that manages earth systems in ways that will ensure the long-term viability of life on our planet.”

The MPA-ESP is an intense 12-month program that was begun in 2002 as a joint effort by SIPA and Columbia's Earth Institute. Their website states, “Graduates are creating a new profession of earth

systems problem-solvers.”

The program is accepting applications for a new fellowship appointment. The SIPA Environmental Sustainability Fellow will receive \$20,000 toward their tuition for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Candidates are asked to apply by the November 1st early decision application deadline.

See Dr. Savage if you are interested in learning more about this program and the fellowship opportunity. You may also visit the website, <http://mpaenvironment.ei.columbia.edu/>.