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## The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 3 Issue 16

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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# The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



A photo from Dr. Savage's Interim 2013 trip to Peru shows high flood lines on the buildings at the Amazonia Expedition lodge on the Tehuayo River, a tributary to the Amazon River. Large floods are becoming more common in this area, likely due to climate change. Check out their solar panels!

Volume 3, Issue 16

## *Dr. Ferguson speaks to Leadership Spartanburg alumni*

***"I stood in front of the little building-- and let the words loose..."***

***See the link below to read Dr. Drew Lanham's blog on the dedication of "The Aldo."***

<http://wildandincolor.blogspot.com/2013/02/resurrecting-legacy-sand-county-to.html?spref=fb>



On Wednesday, February 27, Dr. Ferguson spoke to an audience of approximately one hundred alumni of the Leadership Spartanburg group, which met at the Piedmont Club.

The focus of the talk was climate change. Dr. Ferguson introduced some of the major scientific evidence that climate change is occurring, and that human activities are primarily responsible for the increase in greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in Earth's atmosphere.

Key concepts discussed were the greenhouse effect, global warming and global climate change. Many people consider these concepts synonymous. They are related, but have fundamental differences. The greenhouse effect is a well-accepted scientific fact that has been known for a long time. Simply stated, greenhouse gases such as CO<sub>2</sub>, trap heat and warm the Earth's surface and lower atmosphere. If it weren't for the greenhouse effect the Earth's surface temperature would be an inhospitable -60°F. The important physical relationship is that as CO<sub>2</sub> levels

increase, the temperatures of the Earth's surface and lower atmosphere also increase. As CO<sub>2</sub> levels decrease the temperature decreases. Since as early as 1850, but most markedly since 1945, CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the Earth's atmosphere have been increasing at an ever more rapid rate with current levels approaching 396 ppm. This is very significant; ice core data indicates that for at least the past 800,000 years CO<sub>2</sub> levels fluctuated on a cyclical basis from between 180 to 280 ppm, during glacial advances and retreats of the Ice Age. The high and rapidly increasing levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and the heat that will be produced are the fundamental basis for concerns over global warming. We currently do not know how long it will take or how high temperatures will rise. Global climate change involves not only temperature but also global changes in precipitation, wind patterns, and oceanic and atmospheric circulation. Climatic changes can be rapid and dramatic. Humans must take responsibility and decide when and how to adapt to the changes to come.



## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Each Wednesday in  
March

**Sustainability Cups are Still for Sale:** Support our Fierce Green Fire Student group by purchasing the cup for \$20 (*cash or Terrier Bucks with W#*). Students will be selling at Burwell and Zach's, 11:30am-1:30pm. Use your cup at many of the dining facilities on campus for free soft drinks!

Late February

**Sierra Club Essay Contest:** *What does wilderness mean to the millennial generation? Does the idea of wilderness have any relevance for twenty-first century environmentalists? Is there still a case to be made for wilderness? If so, how can we make that case?* Essays should be no more than 1000 words. Contest will open in late February. Stay tuned for instructions on submitting an essay.

March 1<sup>st</sup>

**Deadline for Applications:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Food, Farm, and Sustainability Institute held at Hampshire College. The six-week summer academic program (*June 3<sup>rd</sup> – July 12<sup>th</sup>*) is for undergraduate students interested in sustainable agriculture and food studies. See Dr. Savage if you are interested in applying.

March 4<sup>th</sup>

**Deadline for Abstract Submission Extended:** *"Health Challenges: Raising the Bar"* is the topic for the 2013 Annual South Carolina Academy of Science meeting that will be held April 13<sup>th</sup> at Benedict College, Columbia. If you would like to submit an abstract/poster, see Dr. Savage.

March 5<sup>th</sup>

**Deadline for Application to Summer Program at Columbia University:** *"The History of Climate Change and the Future of Global Governance"* - May-August 2013. *The Hertog Global Strategy Initiative (HGSI)* is a research program that explores how the world community has responded to planetary threats to derive lessons that will help us take on the challenges of the present and the future. See Dr. Savage if you are interested in applying.

March 11<sup>th</sup>

**Fierce Green Fire Meeting:** Next meeting in BSA 1 at 8:30pm.

March 15<sup>th</sup>

**Applications Due for Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Ecology:** NSF funded 10-week summer program at Southern Illinois University, in a distinctive physiogeographic region where prairie, forest, wetland, floodplain, and river systems converge, starts May 28<sup>th</sup>. Up to 10 undergraduate students will be chosen and will receive a \$5000 stipend. If you are interested in this program, see Dr. Savage.

April 1<sup>st</sup>

**Deadline for Colorado Ecosystem Field Studies:** This program is now accepting applications for 2 summer sessions, June 18-July 4 or July 30-August 15 (*20 students/session*). Earn 3 undergraduate transfer credits while hiking and camping in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Visit [www.ecofs.org](http://www.ecofs.org) for more information.

## PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

### *Johns Hopkins University – MS in Environmental Sciences & Policy*

The Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences at Johns Hopkins has a graduate program in Environmental Sciences and Policy that covers a broad position centered at the juncture between science and policy. Graduates of the program emerge with a combination of expertise in science and policy that enables them to assume key positions in public and private entities responsible for safeguarding our environmental future.

The program offers a flexible curriculum that allows students to tailor their academic experience to suit their personal needs and interests.

Core coursework includes geology, hydrology, oceanography, meteorology, ecology, and policy making. Electives range across a spectrum from courses strongly oriented toward policy to ones focused more heavily on science. Case studies and student projects receive special emphasis. In addition, students may identify a concentration in Environmental Monitoring and Analysis, Ecological Management, Environmental Management, or Environmental Planning.

<http://advanced.jhu.edu/academic/environmental/master-of-science-in-environmental-sciences-and-policy/index.html>