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The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 3 Issue 21

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Please join us for the Environmental Studies
Senior Capstone Presentations April 18th, 2013

Oral presentations 5 – 6 pm in RMSC 122

Poster presentations and reception 6 – 7 pm in
Great Oaks Hall.

Volume 3, Issue 21

SWITCH Energy Project



Taylor White (ENVS class of 2012) leads ENVS 101 students on a tour of the sustainable aspects of the operations at R.J. Rockers, where he is employed as a brewer.

On Tuesday, April 9, the Wofford community had the opportunity to watch a new film about the energy industry. *SWITCH* features geologist Dr. Scott Tinker, director of the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin, as he interviews both industry professionals and government representatives about energy options in the future, while touring some of the largest energy facilities in the world.

One by one, the film explores coal, oil, natural gas, solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, and nuclear power. It provides basic information about how each resource produces energy, where each is most abundant, and the outlook for its continued use in the future from both availability and economic standpoints. Why? Because our current most-used resources, coal and oil, produce significant quantities of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that are causing climatic change on a global scale. With increasing energy demands, especially in highly populated countries such as India and China, use of these

fossil fuels is unsustainable.

What can possibly replace the fuels that dominate our current energy infrastructure? Tinker shows that every alternative faces difficult challenges -- safety issues, land use conflicts, environmental impacts, reliability, transportation, and economic factors are all important. As Dr. DeMars (Government) put it in the discussion following the film, the view is clearly that we are in a “post-panacea” world where we must recognize that no single option can be relied upon to fulfill our growing global energy requirements.

Other points brought out in the discussion, led by Dr. Terry Ferguson, were that some environmental and safety issues were underplayed by virtue of the focus on industry representatives, and that as we continue to use fossil fuels, it becomes increasingly difficult and expensive to extract them. Several students from Wofford’s *Fierce Green Fire* group will follow up on these issues as “SWITCH Ambassadors.”

Additional information is available at <http://www.switchenergyproject.com/>



The Fierce Green Fire student sustainability group is sponsoring an Earth Day Fun Run at Glendale Shoals. See calendar (over) for details.



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- April 14th **Clean Up Day at the Shoals:** To prepare for the upcoming *Shoals Fun Run* we need volunteers to come out for an hour or two to help clean up the area by picking up litter, removing fallen tree branches from the trail, etc. Meet at the Goodall Center at 1:30pm.
- April 18th **Environmental Studies Senior Capstone Presentations:** Graduating seniors will present their projects. Oral presentations from 5:00 – 6:00pm in “the Pit” (RMSC 122); reception and poster session from 6:00 – 7:00pm in Great Oaks Hall.
- April 18th **Audubon Society Program:** 7:30pm Dan Whitten, Master Naturalist at Clemson, will talk about their program. All Audubon programs free and open to public. Parish House at St. Francis, 601 Webber Road, 29307.
- April 21st **FGF’s First Annual Shoals Fun Run 5K in Honor of Earth Day:** Volunteers and sponsorships needed for this event, contact Jan Patton pattonje@email.wofford.edu for information. Race starts at 9:00am. Registration for the event is found on this link <https://www.wofford.edu/environmentalStudies/shoalsfunrun.aspx>. Pricing includes t-shirt, the run, kayak trip (optional).
- April 22nd **USC-Upstate Hosts “Think Globally, Act Locally” on Earth Day:** 3:00pm – Bree Krirsh, “*From Primates to Preserves*”, how her field research contributed to establishing a new wildlife preserve in Kenya; 4:00pm – Laura LaVoie and Matt Belitsos, “*Live in 120 square feet?*”; 5:00pm – Angel Hjarding, “*Red Listing: The Recognition You Do Not Want*”, PhD research to determining if a species needs to be red-listed for protection. All three speakers will be in Tukey Theater on USC-Upstate campus.
- April 22nd **Fierce Green Fire Meeting:** Next meeting in BSA 1 at 8:30pm.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

University of California – Santa Cruz – Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

The University of California at Santa Cruz (UC Santa Cruz) offers an MS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB) with four core tracks in Population and Community Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, Physiology and Behavior, and Conservation and Biodiversity.

According to their website, “UC Santa Cruz is unusually fortunate in having varied and easily accessible marine and terrestrial resources for research. UCSC is ideal for research in terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems, having its campus

and Natural Reserve System, its own marine laboratory, a fleet of boats, and one of the most active scientific diving programs in the country. In addition to state-of-the-art departmental laboratories, students have full access to greenhouses, analytical laboratories, and other facilities in the Division of Physical and Biological Sciences.”

Look to their website for more information:
<http://www.eeb.ucsc.edu/academics/graduate/>