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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



*Congratulations to Jan Patton '14!
Pictured here with Dr. Savage
as the
2014 John W. Harrington
Award Recipient.*



Volume 4, Issue 23

2014 Harrington Award

*“To see a world in a grain of
sand, and a Heaven in a
wildflower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of
your hand, And Eternity in an
hour.”*

~William Blake



*Students contributed to a different
kind of school last week, as Goodall
Center outreach coordinator Haley
Briel and her student interns, Karen
Gravelly and Savannah Paige
Murray, raised awareness about the
Thinking Like A River initiative.*

John W. Harrington, beloved Professor of Geology at Wofford for almost 20 years, loved this passage by William Blake and made it come alive for his students year after year, as he introduced them to the wondrous dynamic world of the deep past and shimmering present. Professor Harrington's style of promoting curiosity in the field and delighting in the challenge of interpreting observations is a guiding force of the Environmental Studies Program that is part of his legacy. Concepts like the “wasness of the is,” the “cone of vision,” and the “four critical aspects” with its questions of “what?, which?, where?, and how?” provide a tool kit necessary to fully understanding an environmental situation. The comparative and holistic use of humanities, sciences, and social sciences perspectives provides the liberal arts context in which these tools are used to define, understand, and seek solutions to modern environmental problems. One of John Harrington's intellectual heroes was geologist Charles Lyell whose dictum was “trust reason not authority.” John encouraged, valued and rewarded personal insights and creative reasoning in his students. This award in his honor continues that tradition.

The Harrington Award is given by the Environmental Studies Program to the graduating senior who embodies John

Harrington's curiosity, creativity and excitement for field learning, while exhibiting high academic achievement, scholarly promise, and intellectual and moral integrity.

We presented the 2014 John W. Harrington Award to Jan Patton, from Gaffney, South Carolina. Jan has sparkled in every Environmental Studies class. Taking advantage of her double major with chemistry, she worked long and hard early in her career here on a Department of Energy - funded summer research project involving the geochemistry of uranium in soils. She was instrumental in revitalizing the Fierce Green Fire student club, recognizing and drawing on each member's strengths, and developing a model for continued leadership. Jan's senior capstone project had her battling Fierce bees, Feisty vegetation and Furiously rising storm water to assess water quality in a piped stream in the North Side neighborhood, and her work will be useful to support stream restoration efforts. Jan has also contributed her talent in graphic design in support of outreach projects as part of the *Thinking Like a River* initiative, and contributed in developing laboratory projects for the Introduction to Earth Systems course.

Jan has accepted a full-time position at Metal Chem, Inc., where she is currently an intern, following graduation. Congratulations, Jan!

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- May** *Recycling Job Opportunity On Campus Next Semester:* Paid position, 6-10 hrs/week, to put out/pick up recycling bins for each dorm once per week, and communicate with RAs, residence life, Junk Matters, and the physical plant. Contact Michael Harpe, harpemc@email.wofford.edu or (864) 205-9925, if interested.
- May 9th** *Deadline to apply to be a Bartram Fellow with Fall Line South Field Institute:* Visit <http://www.falllinesouth.org/> to learn more about this summer opportunity. Camp dates are June 6-15. College-aged leaders needed to interact with high school-aged students and assist camp instructors in an outdoor environment.
- May 15th** *Summer Research Assistant Opportunity for Juniors & Seniors:* 10-week program (June 2-Aug 8) in the study of coastal dune dynamics at Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center at Virginia Coast Reserve. \$4500 stipend + housing (*responsible for food & travel to/from field station*). Applications accepted on rolling basis. Send *cover letter, resume/CV, transcript, and statement of research & career interest* to theojax@live.unc.edu.

Students, Good Luck on Your Exams!



Professor Lane and Donovan Hicks '16 talk on the Shoals in Glendale as the drone shoots footage from overhead.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Lesley University – Master of Science in Ecological Teaching and Learning

Lesley University's Master of Science program is a nationally recognized environmental education program combining fieldwork and online learning for educators interested in furthering their knowledge of ecology, sustainability, living systems, and ecological education.

Spend two summers (3-week programs) taking part in field experiences, both rural and urban. In between residencies, participate in online coursework. Participants take courses in keeping a nature journal/sketching, ecological literacy and

pedagogy, urban ecosystems, and complete an action research project (equivalent of a thesis) in your workplace.

For more information on this program, visit <http://www.lesley.edu/master-of-science/ecological-teaching-and-learning/>