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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Seniors from ENVS 450 enjoyed the weekend at St. Helena Island while learning about the Gullah/Geechee community.



Volume 5, Issue 22



Senior Seminar Field Trip: Low Country Conservation

The third and final senior seminar field experience this year took a coastal focus. Saturday morning we drove through a soaking rain to arrive at St. Helena Island, where we met with Queen Quet for a tour of the heart of the Gullah/Geechee nation. We had so enjoyed her visit to Wofford in February and were eager to explore her home region.

We began at Penn Center, the historic school at Port Royal where previously enslaved Africans of the Sea Islands were educated – starting with building their own school. From there we took a driving excursion to see many of the historic buildings, including the Mary Jenkins Praise House, a tiny building still in use today for community meetings and worship. We then visited the St. Helena Branch Library. Opened in 1912, the LEED certified state-of-the-art facility includes a computer training center, 3-D printers, teen lounge, and a beautiful Gullah-Geechee reading room with a woven wall, alluding to the sweetgrass baskets traditional to the culture.

The group camped at Hunting Island State Park and explored the beautiful beach there, including barnacle-coated trees, storm-deposited mud, and beach detritus including shark teeth – a new experience for Dr. Brewitt! A stir-fry dinner and overnight

thunderstorms capped off the experience.

On Sunday we visited the historic Wiltown Plantation on the Edisto River, where Charles Lane explained the history of conservation efforts in the ACE Basin that was spurred by development pressure in the 1970s. This has occurred largely through placement of conservation easements by private landowners (driven by the culture of hunting, especially for waterfowl), together with acquisition of land by the public for wildlife refuges, management areas, and preserves. It is now the largest undeveloped estuary on the Atlantic U.S. coast, and offers tremendous habitat for migratory birds. We also got to take a look inside the plantation house, including wonderful art objects, and the “tea house” with a collection of African art.

Our last adventure was a paddle on Penny Creek, a tributary to the Edisto River. Guided by Bob Hathcock, we floated out with the tide, and back in when it turned, for a gentle kayaking experience through the estuarine landscape. Participants were Madison and James Daly, Lauren Dunbar, Taylor Neal Groves, Jillian Cothran, Jordan Pope, and Chris Underwood, along with outreach coordinator Haley Briel, Dr. Brewitt, and Dr. Savage.



Top to bottom: Students & faculty tour the new St. Helena Branch Library with Queen Quet. Students explore the ruins of Fort Fremont. Charles Lane talks to students about the ACE Basin. Dr. Brewitt finds his first shark's tooth. Students explore the beach on Hunting Island.





Students and Faculty pledge to make better choices for the environment! Earth Day 2015

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- May 1st** **2015 Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System Criterium:** Come out and enjoy the races in downtown Spartanburg! The first race starts at 4:00pm. Races are scheduled throughout the afternoon/evening with the women's pros starting at 7:05pm and the men's pros at 8:30pm. May is National Bike Month! Check out <http://www.active-living.org/criterium> for more details.
- May 3rd** **Hammock-a-thon at Glendale Shoals:** 1:00-3:00pm – Bring your hammock and join us for music by Bearcastle Plantation, free hot dogs, and activities for the kids. *Local Hiker* will display and sell ENO hammocks. Contact: Haley Briel brielhe@wofford.edu
- Ongoing** **Longleaf Alliance Summer Internship:** LLA is looking for a rising junior or senior to be a social media intern this summer. This is a paid internship in Alabama. Submit resume and cover letter to Rebecca Parker, assistant director in The Space, parkerRM@wofford.edu.

Visit our www.thinkinglikeariver.com website!

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

University of Montana – Environmental Studies Program

The University of Montana offers a MS degree in Environmental Studies (EVST) and a joint MS/JD degree in EVST and their Law Program.

The Masters degree in EVST is flexible. Students can design their own study programs with focus areas in Environmental Education, Environmental Justice, Environmental Law, Environmental Science, Environmental Writing, Sustainable Food and Farming, and other courses of interest throughout the University.

Along with their study interests there are opportunities for students to get involved with groups

outside the classroom. *Camas* is an environmental journal that is edited and published by EVST graduate students each semester. *Transboundary Initiative* is a collaborative program between students at UM and the University of Calgary in Canada “focusing on the trans-border ecosystem straddling the spine of the Rockies.” These are just two of the many on-going projects UM graduate students are involved in. Visit <http://www.cas.umt.edu/evst/graduate/default.php> for more information.