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The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 8 Issue 8

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



Nathaniel Smith from Partnership for Southern Equity joined us Monday evening as the final speaker in our week-long Sustainability Symposium.



Volume 8, Issue 8

Community Sustainability by Dr. Peter Brewitt

We are an urban species now. In 1950, when my mother was born, fewer than a billion people lived in cities. This year, when my daughter is born, it'll be four billion. In this country, 81% of us – 261 million Americans – live in cities. So as humanity continues to wrestle with the ancient question of how to live together, we have to do it in increasing numbers, and in increasingly close quarters. Human sustainability must be urban sustainability.

of course, unevenly distributed, and the dynamism that drives so many people to move to a city can cause terrible damage. Smith laid out his approach in a well-attended talk in Leonard Auditorium on Monday evening. He focuses on equity rather than equality – pointing out that, metaphorically, not everyone needs the same size shoes, they need the shoes that fit their feet.

The next day, Nathaniel joined a wide-ranging lunch discussion where we discussed the growing and complicated connection between Wofford and the Northside of Spartanburg. We all benefitted from his perspective and experience, and Wofford will be that much more sustainable for his having visited us.

To this end, the final guest of the Culture of Sustainability symposium was Nathaniel Smith, from the Partnership for Southern Equity, in Atlanta. Smith is devoting his life to ensuring that his city, and other cities all around the south, are just, sustainable, and equitable. Even within the relatively small space of a city, resources, environmental quality, and climate vulnerability are,



Smith shared his ideas in an exchange about social equity and public policy with Spartanburg community leaders from the Mary Black Foundation, the City of Spartanburg, Northside Development Group, the Spartanburg Housing Authority, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System and Wofford.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

November 15th
7:00pm
Leonard Auditorium

“From Spartanburg to Accra: My Journey in the Study of International Education”:
Lecture by Regina Fuller '11, Presidential Scholar, Fulbright Scholar, Ford Foundation Fellow, and University of Wisconsin PhD student in Educational Policy Studies.

November 22nd-24th

Happy Thanksgiving!

December 1st

Applications open for summer research internship: This paid summer internship runs May 29-August 3, 2018 in the Lake Champlain Basin in Vermont. Research will be conducted in lake & stream ecology, climatology, water chemistry & microbiology, soil nutrients, environmental policy & management, and land use management. Visit: <https://epscor.w3.uvm.edu/2/node/111> for more information and to complete an online application. Deadline to apply: January 31, 2018.



Students in ENVS 203 (left) learn different methods to collect water and sediment samples at the Cottonwood Trail. Students in ENVS 332 (above) get a lesson in surveying from Dr. Ferguson.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

University of Oregon – Leadership in Sustainability Program

Oregon Leadership in Sustainability (OLIS) is a graduate certificate program offered by the University of Oregon that trains students in the concepts and skills of sustainability.

“This year-long program will equip you to play a key role in addressing the key sustainability issues of climate change, green economy, ecosystem services, green infrastructure, and social justice. This program provides leadership and sustainable systems knowledge that will enable participating students to play a transformative role in creating

just, prosperous, and ecologically sound city environments.”

An introduction to the program is held the week prior to the beginning of fall semester and includes seminars, skills-building activities, and sessions with local sustainability practitioners.

The University of Oregon is nationally recognized as a leader in sustainability education and research with award-winning programs such as green building design and sustainable communities. Visit <http://design.uoregon.edu/> for more information.