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Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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ENVS 202 spent the afternoon exploring the Northside community to prepare for their final art projects.

Northside Saunter by Professor John Lane

On Wednesday afternoon I took my environmental humanities class on our annual excursion into the Northside, walking from Wofford’s campus, across Church Street, down College Street, and into the heart of Spartanburg’s most visionary redevelopment project. Our goal was to “feel it,” the way nature and culture collide, intermingle, and morph in a landscape that has been through at least five major redevelopments in 200 years—primordial piedmont hardwood forest and stream valley, farm, textile mill village, post-industrial urban “blight” interspersed with viable remaining pockets of residences, and finally, neoliberal redevelopment “project” taking advantage of for- and non-profit partnerships.

In true ENVS apocalyptic fashion, we talked about a large persimmon that is doomed by coming development in College Street, and how the tree (which I hug regularly) has figured prominently in every environmental writing class I have ever taught; we watched flycatchers and a red-shouldered hawk hunting above the waving grass of the newly lighted Butterfly Branch Greenway.

And the point of it all? Each student will produce art from their interaction with the Northside—a short video, or a series of photos, or maybe even a painting. Next week’s final class of the semester will be an art exhibit. Watch this space to see a few of the results!

(Top) Students in Dr. Telligman’s ENVS 151 and Dr. Brewitt’s ENVS 450 visited Sierra Nevada Brewery to learn about sustainability practices. (Middle) Parking lot signage describes their efforts to reduce energy costs. (Bottom) A bicycle station made from a recycled keg.
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

**Power Hour River Sweep:** Join the Tyger River Foundation at the Tyger 10 Nature Center for their quarterly Tyger River clean-up day. RSVP to inorris@tygerriver.org if you are interested in volunteering.

**An Evening with Charles Frazier:** The author of the award-winning and bestselling novel, *Cold Mountain,* is on a book tour with his new novel, *Varina.* Hub City Books is hosting a discussion between Frazier and Professor John Lane. 50 free tickets are being offered to the Wofford community (Wofford ID required) at the door, first come first serve. Tickets are $30 (includes a copy of the book). Visit Eventbrite for more information.

**Paddle Fest:** Meet at Lake Blalock Park for an educational paddle tour. Spartanburg Water hosts this free event for 20 participants (registration required). Participants are encouraged to bring their own kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddle boards and safety equipment (a limited supply are available for loan on a first come, first served basis).

**PROFILE OF THE WEEK:**

*Louisiana State University – College of the Coast and Environment*

LSU’s College of the Coast and Environment includes the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences (DOCS) and the Department of Environmental Sciences (ENVS). Each program offers master's and doctoral degrees as well as minors in Environmental Sciences, Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, and Wetland Science and Management.

The DOCS degree focuses on ecological and oceanographic processes from the coastal zone to the deep ocean. Students learn about physical, biological and geological oceanography and coastal science research. Faculty include world renowned experts focusing research on coastal ecology, coastal fisheries, and wetland biogeochemistry.

The ENVS degree provides students with a holistic, integrative approach to interdisciplinary environmental research and education. Research categories include Biophysical Systems, Environmental Assessment and Analysis, and Environmental Planning and Management.

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