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Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Volume 9, Issue 12

Rainbow Falls at Jones Gap State Park



Wilderness and Wildness at Jones Gap by Dr. Peter Brewitt



Dr. Brewitt and students from his HUM 101 class hit the trail at Jones Gap State Park to see Rainbow Falls.



We believe in experiential education here in Black Science Annex, so when you teach a class on wilderness and wildness, you'd ought to get out into the wilderness, yourself. And so it was that my freshman humanities class spent Saturday night camping at Jones Gap State Park. After a week of furious weather, we were heartened to see crisp blue skies over the hills as we drove west to South Carolina's little slice of the Blue Ridge. The water in the creeks was high, though, and it was a bit of an adventure just to get to our campsite while carrying overnight gear. Nonetheless, camp got pitched, and we headed off up the trail.

Our objective was Rainbow Falls, a hundred-foot ribbon of water high up the side of Jones Gap. The fall leaves were still hanging on,

spreading yellow and red around the trail. The path was short – only about two and a half miles from camp to falls – but steep, so we took out time to reflect, write, and even sketch a bit as we climbed. The falls was all that we'd hoped, the way down went swiftly, and most of the rest of the trip centered around our campfire. I was stunned, Sunday morning, at Wofford students' powers of sleep. Despite the sub-freezing temperatures and the fact that they were sleeping on the ground or in hammocks, nearly all the students snoozed past eight. I think a few would be there still if we hadn't had to head back. I look forward to my next backcountry class.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

December 4th
2:30pm-5:00pm
Gray-Jones Room,
Burwell Building

Gleaning – the practice of collecting excess foods from gardens, farms, farmers markets, grocers to provide it to those in need: Join Dr. Telligman's ENVS 334 for a screening of *The Gleaners and I*, a documentary film, followed by a discussion with friends from [Ruth's Gleanings](#) and [Atlas Organics](#). Snacks gleaned from the ENVS 334 Principles of Sustainable Agriculture garden plots.

January 15th
Entry Deadline

Wild Spartanburg Poster Contest: SPACE and the Tyger River Foundation are launching a [poster contest](#) with a \$2,500 prize! Inspired by the beautiful WPA National Park Posters, they will launch a conservation awareness campaign of posters designed by a local artist of Berry's Bridge, the Cottonwood Trail, Glendale Shoals, and Nesbitt Shoals. Artists are encouraged to create work inspired by one of these places. There will be an exhibition at the Headquarters of the Spartanburg County Libraries of selected entries beginning in February. The winner will be announced during a reception on April 18th. To learn more and to receive an application, please e-mail alix@spartanburgconservation.org.

January 15th
1st Round Application &
Scholarship Deadline

Middlebury School of the Environment Summer Session 2019: Six-week summer environmental studies program in Yunnan Province, China (June 7-July 19) with undergraduate credits for 3-full courses. Applications accepted on a rolling basis until the program is full. Need based financial aid is available. Visit [Middlebury School of the Environment](#) for more information.

February 1st
Application Deadline

Santee Cooper Summer Internship Program: Assist Environmental Specialists with aquatic plant control, water quality monitoring, laboratory analysis, special projects, equipment maintenance and other duties. Students must have finished their first year of college and be pursuing a degree in Biology, Wildlife Management or other environmental related field. [View the job details here](#). Internship begins May 13, 2019.

Ongoing

Climate Web Internship: Interested in climate change as well as developing knowledge management skills that will serve you well in your career? Interns are welcome from any location and background based on a 5-20 hours per week and 3-6-month commitment. Interns work remotely and on their own schedule. Visit [Climatographers](#) for more information.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

University of Florida – Master of Sustainable Development Practice

The University of Florida's Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) degree focuses on training students to address development challenges in poor countries. It uses the natural, social and health sciences to bridge these challenges and is part of the larger Global MDP Association, which consists of 36 MDP programs in 25 countries around the world.

Classes consist of four academic semesters and one 10-12-week summer field practicum, in which students focus on addressing specific development

challenges in different parts of the world. Their research is then presented as part of earning their MDP degree.

The UF MDP program has recently joined the [Academic Common Market](#) to provide students from across the southeast an opportunity to enroll at in-state tuition rates. The program is accepting preliminary applications for Fall 2019 until February 1, with a rolling admissions deadline through June 2019.

[UF – Master of Sustainable Development Practice](#)