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# The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

*Happy  
Holidays from  
Glendale  
Shoals and  
the Goodall  
Center!*



Volume 10, Issue 12

## *Landscapes in Time* by Dr. Kaye Savage

*Did you know... the Appalachian mountains used to be as high as the Himalayas, and South Carolina's coastal plain was once completely under water?* So begins one of the courses I taught this semester. This year, the general education requirement focused on first-year humanities seminars tried something new: seminars that could be taught from any disciplinary perspective, focusing on developing four "capacities" to support skills necessary for academic success at Wofford. I was fortunate to teach one of these seminars as a pilot participant.

Earth's landscapes have changed dramatically over its 4.6-billion-year history, and now human activities are transforming them faster than ever before. Our class focused on the processes that constructed our planet's varied terrains and explored how particular landscapes influence our personal experiences and identities. Using maps, infographics, texts, and photographs, we encountered landscapes threatened by modern

development and climate change, considered the impacts on their inhabitants, and developed our own narrative and artistic responses to their alteration and loss.

The four focal capacities for the pilot first-year seminars are academic reading and writing, critical reasoning, identity and perspective, and growth mindset. The last of these has been shown to dramatically improve student success outcomes by focusing on the way the human brain responds to learning opportunities and effort. Along the way, students reflected on landscapes they love, interviewed older adults about the landscape changes they have observed over their lifetimes, and created a visual representation of landscape change. We all enjoyed reading about individual perspectives and responses to climate change, both globally and here in the southeastern U.S.

Thanks to my first-year students for a wonderful semester!



*The foundation walls are going up at the new Chandler Center for Environmental Studies.*



## *Good Luck with Exams!*

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**

7:00pm

Glendale Fire Department  
215 Church Street, 29348

**Annual Glendale Tree Lighting:** Join us for this holiday tree lighting event in Glendale. Enjoy live holiday music, refreshments, and a visit from Santa! This is a free community event.

**December 9<sup>th</sup>**

Application Deadline

**Job Opportunity with Clemson Extension:** Seeking applicants for an extension agent for their Florence County Extension Office. This person will join the Water Resource Extension team and coordinate the Carolina Clear program in Florence and Darlington Counties. [Job details and application.](#)

Ongoing

**Job Opportunities in Conservation and Restoration:** [The Great Basin Institute](#) is a nonprofit organization that specializes in conservation and restoration all throughout the West. They are currently hiring for over 60 paid positions ranging from ecological monitoring, wildlife monitoring, trail maintenance, range land management, and fuels reduction.

December 16, 2019 –  
January 5, 2020

# Happy Holidays!

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### PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

#### *Rhode Island School of Design – MA in Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies*

One of the newest graduate programs at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) is their MA in Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies (NCSS), which engages socioecological issues within the humanities, social sciences, and art and design.

Students work with faculty in environmental humanities and social sciences to create self-directed pathways of research in areas such as Anthropocene studies, climate change cultures, green urbanisms and sustainable design. These students go on to work in areas such as environmental advocacy,

public policy, urban planning, and more.

NCSS is a year and a half long program with 15-hours of core courses in interdisciplinary environmental humanities and social sciences, 12-hours of NCSS electives including one taken during RISD's 5-week winter session in January/February, and 12-hours of thesis work. Students also benefit from small class sizes and the highly collaborative nature among the other 16 art and design-based master's programs.

[RISD – Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies](#)