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12-13-2019

The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 10 Issue 13

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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Recommended Citation

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program, "The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 10 Issue 13" (2019). *The Fierce Green Fire*. 232.

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Many Wofford students choose to spend Interim away from campus. Senior Taven Leblond spent his Interim with a group in the Galápagos.



Volume 10, Issue 13

Interim in The Galápagos by Taven Leblond '20

Over the past Interim I found myself in the Galápagos Archipelago, spending most of my time on the island of San Cristóbal. My experiences varied from seeing the famous giant tortoises to exploring lava tunnels to snorkeling alongside penguins, hammerhead sharks, and sea lions. I stood where Darwin stood when he first came to the islands and began his studies. I also had the opportunity to be immersed into the local culture and totally taken in by my host family.

I got to see first-hand the success of wildlife conservation, particularly the conservation of the 13-remaining species of tortoise. Three species are no longer being artificially bred after 2020 – their

populations are now high enough to breed naturally.

I got to experience the full spectrum of the food-chain from the upwelling phenomenon. The organisms I saw varied from 3 cm (jellyfish) to over 4 m (Giant Hammer Head Shark). The power felt from the water pushing up in the upwelling is the most powerful force of nature that I have personally felt, along with the unnerving experience of having spotted eagle rays swimming in this current both above and below me.

The Galápagos is a unique place with phenomenal people and I would recommend anyone travel there if given the chance.



Work continued during the holidays and Interim at the new Chandler Center for Environmental Studies.



Leblond and the landscape of San Cristóbal Island in the Galápagos.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

**These count toward your two required extracurricular events for the semester.*

February 7th
Application Deadline

Harvard Forest Summer Research Program in Ecology: Apply for this 11-week paid residential internship, May 18-July 31. Students experience research of scientific inquiry in an immersive field station setting. [Apply here.](#)

February 12th
12:00-1:00pm
Holcombe Room, Burwell

Speaker Brian Mateo*: Associate Dean at Bard College and climate change activist will talk about climate change and its effects on vulnerable populations.

February 20th
2:30-5:30pm
Room TBD

ENVS Senior Seminar Capstone Presentations*: Join us as our seniors display and discuss their capstone projects. Drop in or out as you are able during the presentations.

February 24th
4:00pm
Olin 101

Craftivism: Merging Science, Art and Policy for Global Change*: Dr. Katharine Owens will give an interactive talk about how change-makers can merge science, art, and policy to effect change on environmental issues of global. She has carried out numerous projects to collect and communicate data related to environmental issues to shape public policy. Her talk at Wofford is informed by her experiences in collaborative and participatory environmental advocacy with students and communities in the US and in India.

March 6th – 8th
Application Deadline

C2C Fellows Workshop at Bard Center for Environmental Policy: Undergraduates and recent graduates aspiring to leadership positions in sustainable policy, politics and business can [apply](#) for this upcoming workshop. A \$30 registration fee is due upon acceptance to the workshop – meals and housing included.

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.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

American Museum of Natural History – MAT in Earth Sciences

The Richard Gilder Graduate School at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City is offering a unique opportunity to earn a fully-funded MAT in Earth Sciences. This teaching fellowship will provide coursework to participants interested in careers in middle and high school STEM education.

Per their program description – All degree candidates will receive free tuition, books, and a \$30,000 living stipend. In return, candidates commit to teaching in a high-needs school for four years

upon completion of the year-long (June-August) program.

The upcoming cohort will receive a \$10,000 salary supplement per year while they complete their four-year teaching commitment.

Applications are being accepted until February 15, 2020 and prospective students are encouraged to attend an on-site information session or speak with a faculty member to discuss the program. Visit [AMNH – Master of Arts in Teaching](#) to learn more.