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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Volume 12, Issue 7

ENVS 101 Field Trip to Happy Cow Creamery by Izzy Boulware '24

A little over two weeks ago, the Environmental 101 class drove to a little dairy farm situated just south of Greenville in Pelzer, South Carolina for our weekly excursion. Our unit that week focused on sustainable development with a hint of globalization. [Happy Cow Creamery](#) has been in this area since 1978 when Tom Trantham or, as many people call him, Farmer Tom purchased the land. (Farmer Tom is an icon of dairy farming.) The bigger farms injected hormones into their cows to create the optimized dairy product with the optimized output. Farmer Tom could not keep up, and he didn't know what to do. Until his cows traveled over to an unused grazing field that had been run rampant with weeds. After their grazing, Farmer Tom realized that the cows' milk production the next day increased exponentially.

Tom cut out all uses of chemicals and fertilizers on his farm, and only uses pure, organic matter to help supplement nutrients into the soil. Sustainability seen on a successful farm like Happy Cow shows students, like me, that anyone can be successful in their line of work if they do it honestly. Farmer Tom exemplified thinking out of the box and providing a sustainable and healthy home for his cows and a healthy product for his customers. People from neighboring states and cities drive to buy dairy products from Happy Cow, and I don't think many people would do the same for big name brands like Borden or Nestlé. Our trip to Happy Cow Creamery showed us that sustainability should be preserved and used in future endeavors in the Southeast and America at large.



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

November 18th-February 5th
Spartanburg Art Museum
200 E Saint John Street

Lamentations: [A photographic exhibition by Tina Freeman](#) on loan from the New Orleans Museum of Art. Freeman's photographs of the wetlands of Louisiana and the glacial landscape of the Arctic and Antarctica pair images from these disparate regions in a series of diptychs that function as stories about climate change, ecological balance, and the connectedness of disparate landscapes.

November 22nd
7:00pm
Zoom

Harvard School of Divinity's Weather Reports: [A weekly series of online conversations](#) featuring this week's topic, *The Climate of the Future* with novelist Kim Stanley Robinson. [Zoom registration required.](#)

Happy Thanksgiving!

December 7th & 9th
8:00-9:20am
Zoom

Save the Date for ENVS Capstone Presentations for Class of 2022: Seniors will be presenting their capstone projects via Zoom. A link to the program will be sent out after Thanksgiving break.

Ongoing

[Become a Campus Organizer for StudentPIRGs](#)

Ongoing

[Job Opportunities at Teton Science School](#)

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

University of South Carolina – Master of Earth and Environmental Resource Management

The School of Earth, Ocean and Environment at the University of South Carolina offers five graduate degrees including the Master of Earth and Environmental Resource Management (MEERM) degree for graduate students interested in management positions in earth resources or environmental resources.

MEERM offers these graduate students the opportunity to create individualized programs based on their own interests and goals.

The school's website quotes, "To ensure a truly interdisciplinary education, at least one third of the

student's coursework must be in earth and environmental resources and one third in management, finance and economics, with no more than 50 percent in either field." This gives students the flexibility to create their own individualized degree within a structured program.

In cooperation with the USC School of Law, the program also offers a JD-MEERM dual degree.

[Visit USC – School of Earth, Ocean and Environment](#)
