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The Fierce Green Fire

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

*ENVS senior
Wade Wood
spent spring
semester
studying in
Panama.*



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Semester Abroad in Panama by Wade Wood '22

This semester I was part of a group of thirty-six students from all over the US and Panama that completed an SIT program focusing on tropical ecology, marine ecosystems, and biodiversity conservation. This program was centered around field work and excursions, which means I traveled all around Panama and spent most of my class time in the middle of the ocean or the forest. Some of the amazing places that I spent my time were Panama City, El Valle de Antón, Cerro Punta, Guna Yala, Bocas del Toro, and Gamboa. My classwork included catching and identifying various amphibians and birds, collecting data on coral reef structures, photographing dolphin dorsal fins to use for identification, doing a homestay in an indigenous comarca, collecting mangrove roots, and so many other unimaginable activities. These once-in-a-lifetime experiences continued outside of the classroom when I got to hike to the top

of Volcán Barú, walk through the historic parts of the city, and be introduced to so much incredible food.

The most challenging but rewarding part of the semester was the independent study project that I completed during the final month. I studied trail degradation in Parque Nacional Soberanía and Parque Nacional Omar Torrijos. This project involved independently designing and executing a research project and traveling on my own to seven different cities throughout Panama. After completing our projects, the Universidad Tecnológica de Panama held a three-day symposium where all the students presented to students, faculty, and even a member of the US Embassy. Watching everyone's presentation reminded me not only of all we accomplished, but also that I was surrounded by people that were just as crazy about the natural world as I was.



Students in Dr. Savage's ENVS 101 class visited Refuge Farm in Roebuck, SC last week.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

June 1st
Application Deadline

Water Environment Association of SC Capital District Scholarships: 3 - \$2500 scholarships will be awarded this fall. [Sign up \(student memberships are free\) for scholarship information and application package](#). Contact Betsy Catchings, bcatchings@caycesc.gov Capital District Scholarship Committee Chair, for more details.

Ongoing [Job Opportunity with Spartanburg Area Conservancy – Conservation Director](#)

Ongoing [Job Opportunities with the US Forest Service](#)

Ongoing [Job Opportunities at Teton Science School](#)

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Ecosa – Certificate & Semester Programs in Sustainable Design

[Ecosa at Prescott College](#) in Arizona offers a certificate program in Regenerative Ecological Design (RE-Design). These semester-long immersion programs are a break from the traditional design schools that offer the traditional design education. Their mission is “to restore health to the natural environment, and thus the human environment, through education in design.”

Students with design or non-design based undergraduate degrees are encouraged to apply. “Students who participate in our program are

pioneers searching for significant learning and novel ways of thinking.” This is a hands-on program that tackles real world issues and students produce sustainable design work in real life settings.

Ecosa’s sustainable design semester programs can help to enhance design portfolios for applications to bachelors and master’s programs in architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, and interior design.
