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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Senior Isaiah Franco spent his summer in Vermont researching crop diversity of East Africa.



Volume 13, Issue 2

Summer Research in Vermont by Isaiah Franco '23

Living in Vermont this summer cemented how unique each part of the United States is. In the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont (its three northernmost counties), I spent each afternoon traveling to beautiful creeks and lakes among rolling green mountains.

During the day though, I spent much of my summer glued to my computer conducting research on factors possibly affecting crop diversity and farmer livelihood in East Africa. Doing this research, I experienced what life at a research institution like the University of Vermont may be like, while also living at a small sustainable agricultural school called Sterling College.

A snapshot of my summer seems piecemeal and incoherent: I studied crop diversity in East Africa... while living in rural Vermont; my research was based out of the University of Vermont, yet we had to commute an hour and a half to get there twice a week; I ran statistical analysis while watching Sterling students herd sheep.

However, these disparate pieces united to form an educational experience illuminating the value of intersectional work. My peers and I interrogated current paradigms of development which encourage farmers to either increase their land use and plant less diverse plots or sell off land and move to the city to work. Amidst this we witnessed more sustainable agriculture at the Rian Fried Center at Sterling College.

I learned that sometimes, the best way to help those abroad, is to do the work of sorting through data and writing policy briefs. While visiting and doing work on the ground may seem fun, it is important to consider what work needs doing despite it not being so glamorous. Finally, anyone stuck looking at Stata and ArcGIS all day (they are super fun believe it or not), deserves the privilege of exploring the green mountains soon after.

So, I look back on this summer fondly. Where I was introduced to the world of academic research, but also the beautiful summer green forests of Vermont.



Dr. Savage and Professor Webster are co-teaching LIBA101/ARTS260, a first-year learning community class titled Landscapes in Time. They began the semester with a field trip to the Pacolet Heritage Preserve on 'Freaky Friday' (a Friday lab designed to replace the first missed Monday of the semester due to Labor Day).

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

September 9th
Application Deadline

2 Urban Farmers Needed: The Wofford Sustainability Committee seeks to hire 2 student farmers to grow food at the Hub City Farmers' Market Urban Farm. Students' primary responsibilities will be to help grow food and maintain the farm but will also help plan for the upcoming growing season and develop educational programs for the community. Supervisors are farm manager Ben Lea, and Dr. Amy Telligman. Farm or garden experience desirable but not necessary. 7-10 hrs/week, starting pay \$9/hr. Please send a letter of application, your resume, and the contact information for at least one professional reference to Dr. Telligman, telligmanal@wofford.edu. In your letter of application, please list three goals for the experience, indicating what you hope to get from the job.

September 12th
Application Deadline

Driver Needed for ENVS101: Dr. Eaton needs a driver for various Wednesday afternoon lab classes, 1:00-5:00pm. Must be 21yo. Contact Dr. Eaton, eatondp@wofford.edu.

September 17th
9:00-11:00am
Duncan Park

PAL Trail Clean Up at Duncan Park: Bring your gloves and tools for fighting the invasive plant species and join PAL and Trees Coalition for the clean-up day. [Register here](#) to let them know you are coming.

September 22nd
5:30pm Reception
6:15pm Presentation
Tracy Gaines Auditorium at SCC

Spartanburg Community College to Host Arboretum Event: [New Naturalism: A Consilient Approach to Horticulture, Ecology, Design and Curation](#). Ticket fee will be waived if you email Dr. Telligman telligmanal@wofford.edu that you'd like to go by September 19th.

October 8th
2:00-7:00pm

3 Drivers Needed: 2022 Tri State Sculptors Conference needs drivers to shuttle conference visitors from the Richardson Arts Center to the Goodall Center in Glendale. Must be 21yo, have a current driver's license, and be willing to drive a 15-passenger van. Drivers should be familiar with the route to Glendale Shoals and be willing to share their phone number with other drivers and conference organizers to coordinate. \$15/hr for 5 hours. If interested, contact Michael Webster, webstermd@wofford.edu.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Pace University – Environmental Law Program

Pace Law School's environmental law program is consistently ranked by *US News & World Report* as one of the top programs in the nation. Located in White Plains, NY, the school offers both graduate degrees and JD degrees in a variety of specialized law and joint degrees.

There are more than 40 environmental law courses offered through Pace University's Global Center for Environmental Legal Studies, Energy & Climate Center, and Land Use Law Center for Sustainable Development. Pace has an international

environmental law program and "hosts numerous initiatives, institutes, and programs with an international focus" and partners with institutions abroad to give students opportunities to study environmental law internationally. Clinics and externships are also available to students for developing practical skills and professional job experience.

[Pace University – Elisabeth Haub School of Law](#)
