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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Volume 13, Issue 7



ENVS Alumni Perspectives

by Mareli Sanchez '16

I graduated from Wofford College in 2016 with Environmental Studies and Biology majors, ready to become lithic scatter to the South Carolina piedmont. Craving new trails, my first fresh footprint was in New Orleans, LA, where I began a PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology at Tulane University. The trail has been winding and wonderful over the last six years, moving through the forests of Panama, Puerto Rico, and Ecuador. In these places, I spend time digging up fine roots of trees and collecting soil for study of underground mycorrhizal networks. Yet, re-encounters with third landscapes, groundwater hydrology maps, Werner Herzog films, Wendell Berry's poetry, and debates on wildness and tipping points make me realize how much the ENVS department enriched my experience as an individual in this world. Our discussions *did* leave the walls of the Black Science Annex and have served as navigation tools and as gifts ever since. It may take some time for the things you learn now as undergraduates to be recognized as gifts. The ones that reveal themselves later tend to be the most special. I saw, touched, and tasted my first

persimmon one November afternoon with Professor Lane's Environmental Humanities class, on a walk around the Northside of campus. I leave you with a poem about how there are gifts to be received every day, if only we pay attention.

Persimmon

All we need to know is told
by the fruiting persimmon tree.
Root and crown in unison
puppeteering
the cream of creation
quietly,
walking to summit.
Skeletal branches
lift the sunrise fruit
shiny and round
a blind man's hand around a doorknob,
a door to every day's gift
sometimes only one
often not in plain sight,
but sometimes
as obvious and perfect
as persimmon.



Sanchez is currently a PhD candidate at Tulane University in New Orleans.

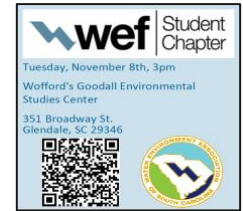
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

November 5th
9:00am-noon
Hub City Farmers Market

Atlas Organics First Annual Pumpkin Smash: Bring your pumpkins and join this family-fun community event and learn all about diverting pumpkin waste from landfills. [Register here.](#)

November 8th
3:00-4:30pm
Goodall Center, 351
Broadway St, Glendale, SC
29346

Upstate Student Chapter of Water Environment Federation Meeting: This new Upstate student chapter will meet at the Goodall Center. Great opportunity to network plus snacks and door prizes. Contact Dr. Savage if you are interested in joining.



November 11th
5:00-7:00pm
Goodall Center, 351
Broadway St,
Glendale, SC 29346

Environmental Reading: Join us for readings with 4 authors including Professor Lane, Dr. Brewitt, and Professor Reynolds, in collaboration with the Hub City Bookshop.

November 12th
9:00-11:00am
Goodall Center, 351
Broadway St, Glendale, SC
29346

Second Saturdays Volunteer Day in Glendale: Join us on the second Saturday of the month to help beautify the garden and surrounding areas at the Goodall Center. [Register here to let us know you're coming.](#)

November 15th
5:00pm
Olin Building, Room
101

Goodall Visiting Fellow Artist Talk: Eric William Carroll will give a talk on his work in photography, science, and nature as it explores the differences in how we experience, organize, and represent the world. Through his photographs, installations, and performances, Carroll creates visual and emotional connections that span enormous distances in space and time. As the Fall 2022 Goodall Visiting Fellow, Carroll is participating in Wofford's Long Term Environmental Reflection project at Glendale Shoals Preserve.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

University of North Carolina – MBA in Sustainable Enterprise

The Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability at the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School offers an MBA with a concentration in Sustainable Enterprise. According to their website it prepares students to manage the 'triple bottom line': financial, environmental, and social performance. The program is recognized as one of the leading MBA social and environmental impact management programs in the country and has most recently been ranked in the top ten by *Bloomberg Businessweek* for sustainability and Best Green MBA by *The Princeton Review*.

Courses and requirements for the concentration cover topics including corporate sustainability strategy, financial analysis and metrics, environmental/social impact assessment, sustainable innovation and investment, corporate responsibility, economic development, and entrepreneurship in developing economies.

[UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School – Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability](#)