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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Volume 13, Issue 8



Students Learn from Geopolitical Energy Simulation

This year, Dr. Bradham partnered with Dr. MacCarthy (Physics) to teach a course on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report. Authored by 234 climate scientists from over 135 countries, this comprehensive report is released every six years and quantitatively summarizes the physical state of the climate (e.g., precipitation changes, temperature predictions), the impacts of climate change including vulnerability to populations and sectors (e.g., the agricultural sector, women), and adaptation and mitigation approaches. As part of this course, Dr. MacCarthy developed a “tabletop” Geopolitical Energy Simulation to help students understand the geopolitics associated with decreasing fossil fuel use in order to keep the increase in global temperature below 3°C over the next 80 years (8 turns). The simulation consists of the nine nations that are responsible for roughly 60% or more of the world’s GDP, population, grain

production, fossil fuel production, energy use, and CO₂ production.

Early in the semester, Dr. MacCarthy and Dr. Bradham united their class with Dr. Bill DeMars’ Global Issues class to run the simulation. Each student group was assigned a country or region and were given three simple goals: feed your people, grow your GDP, and keep the increase in global temperature below 3°C. This required them to buy or sell grain (to feed people) and fossil fuel (to power fossil fuel plants), build new (fossil fuel or non-fossil fuel) plants (to increase GDP), and decommission fossil fuel plants (to reduce CO₂ production). After the first turn, multiple countries had fallen into ruin and were on the brink of war! Luckily, they have now had a full semester of information on climate change impacts, regulations, and impacts so we are excited to see how the game is played at the end of the semester!



Students in ENV5/PHY280 and GOV320 work through the simulated issues for their assigned country.



Students in Dr. Telligman’s ENV5334 Sustainable Agriculture visited Sky Top Orchard on Thursday to learn about apple diversity in North Carolina.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

November 11th

5:00-7:00pm

Goodall Center, 351

Broadway St,

Glendale, SC 29346

Environmental Reading: Join us for readings and conversation with authors John Lane, Peter Brewitt, Sheri Reynolds, and John Richard Saylor, in collaboration with the Hub City Bookshop. The panelists will present their publications and discuss our sense of place in the environment.

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 12th

9:00am-12:00pm

County Administration,

366 N Church St, 29303

Paper Shredding Event for Spartanburg County Residents: Celebrate America Recycles Day 2022 by bringing your unwanted paper to be shredded. Limit of 3 boxes of paper per household.

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:

Vermont Law & Graduate School – Master of Climate & Environmental Policy

Vermont Law and Graduate School announces their new environmental policy school, Vermont School for the Environment and its new Master of Climate and Environmental Policy (MCEP) degree. They are now accepting applications for fall 2023.

Students will gain the skills and tools to implement solutions related to climate change and environmental justice. MCEP students may choose to shape their own program or study in one of the three concentrations: Climate Change,

Environmental Justice, or Environment, Social and Governance. All students choose a research track which involves writing a thesis or a practice track which focuses on an externship or on-campus clinic.

Learn more about the new degree and the options for residential, online, or hybrid curriculum tracks:

[Master of Climate and Environmental Policy](#)
