ENVS Alumni Panel Discussion with Seniors

“Life is a jungle gym not a ladder” ~ Annie Dillon ’16

On Thursday, Dr. Bradham’s senior seminar and faculty, both past and present, from Environmental Studies welcomed back a group of four alumni to talk about what post-graduate life is like. The panel consisted of Sam Parrott ’15, Reeves Goettee ’20, Annie Dillon ’16, and Jacob Godwin ’13. As we seniors are staring down the barrel of graduation and trying to figure out what post grad life will be like, hearing from these alumni was a very welcome experience. The panelists have had their environmental studies degrees take them far and wide: one now practices law, one went the non-profit route, one works in environmental education, and one is finishing a master’s degree in environmental science.

“Hearing them reflect on their time here and steps post-grad really put me at ease,” one senior said. “I am not sure exactly what I want to do post-grad and seeing these individuals who were in a similar boat was encouraging.”

Much of their advice centered around soaking up the experience of college and saying yes to experiences when they present themselves. The alumni also spoke on the importance of the three-legged stool and how the intersectionality of the environmental studies degree has benefitted them.

Panelist Sam Parrott stated, “Non-profit work is all about being well-rounded,” and Reeves explained that during her graduate school internship in local government there were shifts to adopt systems thinking rather than the historic approach of departments being siloed.

“It was encouraging to see how the environmental studies department has set up all these individuals for success and it really excited me for my next steps,” said another senior. The opportunity to hear these alumni speak during this class helped encourage wary seniors and has inspired us to, as one panelist said, “Gobble up experiences” while we still have the chance!

~ Kas Burnett ’23 and Hampton Randall ’23
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Check out the new Goodall Center Instagram page.

**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.]

**PALs to Host Trail Ribbon Cutting in Beaumont:** Celebrate the unveiling of the Beaumont Mill Village Pathway, a segment of the Daniel Morgan Trail System.

**Bard Graduate Programs in Sustainability Virtual Open House:** Prospective students can learn more about their programs.

**15th Annual Hazardous Household Waste Collection & Rain Barrel Sale:** Rain or shine, all Spartanburg County residents can bring their hazardous household waste to be disposed (excluding electronics). Rain barrels will be available for purchase. [See the list of acceptable and unacceptable items.]

**Volunteer Opportunity:** The Goodall Center interns will need help with our Earth Day event (family fun) in Glendale. If you are interested please contact Emma Sutton, suttonec@wofford.edu or Lindsey Vane, vaneln@wofford.edu! [This can count as an outside event for ENVS majors.]

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**PROFILE OF THE WEEK:**

**Lenoir-Rhyne University – MS in Sustainability Studies**

Lenoir-Rhyne’s sustainability studies is a fairly new program that is deeply connected to the Asheville and Western North Carolina communities and was established in part because of the university’s commitment to sustainability. The Master of Science in Sustainability Studies (MSSS) explores ideas that involve science, policy, business, communication, and community planning to advance sustainability and to solve current and future problems. It also recognizes the growing need for sustainability-related professions.

Many classes are available at night or on weekends and the program offers the flexibility to complete online courses at your own pace. All students have opportunities to collaborate with community partners in class projects and capstone projects that integrate learning and experiences related to sustainability.

[Lenoir-Rhyne – MS in Sustainability Studies]