Welcome Professor Eric Kocher to ENVS!

Greetings from the Chandler Center for Environmental Studies where I have settled nicely into my office and am desperately trying to keep the moss terrarium my wife bought me this summer alive. Some of you reading this might already know me, as this will be my tenth year teaching at Wofford, most of which has been in the English department where I’ve primarily taught courses about poetry and environmental literature, but as the newest addition to the Environmental Studies Department, and as our department’s “humanist,” I wanted to say how excited I am to be here and to share a little about myself and my work.

I have an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Houston and my writing is concerned with what I like to call “domestic” encounters with “planetary” forces. In other words, I am interested in how some of the big ideas that shape the work of our department (climate change, biodiversity loss, injustice, conservation, etc.) intersect with the smallness of our daily lives (grocery shopping, parenthood, sunsets, etc.). Similarly, my teaching often asks students to explore how we encounter these ideas in art, literature, film, journalism, and digital media, and how the treatment of these ideas influences not only how we treat the environments in which we live, but how we construct policy, engage in activism, and make decisions individually and together.

Outside of teaching, I spend most of my time with my family and trying to learn how far I am capable of running.

In May, students enjoyed travelling to Copenhagen with Dr. Telligman as part of her Sustainability Science course to study the city’s culture of sustainability.
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.

**Alianza Spartanburg Monthly Gathering at Mayfair Mills Art Studio:** Complimentary lunch provided with special guests: Upstate Forever consulting team, Tyger River Confluence Project and Ned Barrett, PAL, trail development. **Alianza Facebook for more information.**

**Tyger River Sweep at Nesbitt Shoals:** Tyger River Foundation and SCDNR host this **annual river clean-up** to beautify the area and collect litter data for the Litter Journal. All supplies provided – bring water.

**Preparing for the 2030 Census: Why Now?:** Guest speaker Charles Mann will offer a look at the 2020 highlights and the undercount and explains the relationship between the Census and federal resource allocations.

**Hub City Books presents Keeping the Chattahoochee: Sally Sierer Bethea in Conversation with Rebecca Wade:** See event details at Hub City Bookshop.

**PROFILE OF THE WEEK:**

*American Museum of Natural History – MAT in Earth Sciences*

The Richard Gilder Graduate School at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City is offering a unique opportunity to earn a fully-funded MAT in Earth Sciences. This teaching fellowship will provide coursework to participants interested in careers in middle and high school STEM education.

Per their program description – All degree candidates will receive free tuition, books, and a $30,000 living stipend. In return, candidates commit to teaching in a high-needs school for three years upon completion of the year-long (June-August) program.

Program alumni recent 2 years of funded induction with career development and support in classroom management and curriculum development.

Applications are being accepted until January 15, 2024, and prospective students are encouraged to attend an on-site information session or speak with a faculty member to discuss the program. Learn more at **AMNH – Master of Arts in Teaching.**