My sabbatical this past spring was one of the most beautiful and thrilling experiences of my life. From January to June, I was a visiting fellow at the University of Cumbria, in Ambleside, England. The campus is nestled right in the heart of Lake District National Park – I could walk to the office and then climb a peak on my lunch break. But despite being a magnificent protected landscape of steep fells, mystical lakes, and rivers that plunge down the mountains like white knives, nature in Cumbria, and all over Britain, is in huge trouble. It is one of the most ecologically degraded countries on earth. Without people, western Britain would be a temperate rainforest, dominated by misty oak forests where wolves hunt bison. Now, in the 2020s, there are no wolves, three bison, and hardly any trees of any kind.

But as always, there are people trying to help. I went there to learn how the English are trying to restore their ecology and reintroduce locally extinct species through the “Back on our Map” project. They’re not up to wolves just yet, but are focusing on smaller species, like dormice, butterflies, and sundews, that can involve local communities and build support for ecological restoration. I wasn’t sure what I’d find when I got there (otherwise it wouldn’t be research), but I expected to have a good time. It went well beyond that. I was really happy every day, everyone I worked with was kind and friendly, my research was fascinating, and my family had a wonderful adventure. My daughters went to school in the village and emerged with impressive Cumbrian accents and knowledge of Cumbrian slang. I did not acquire an accent, but I DID learn to drive on the left. On the weekends we visited castles and cathedrals and ate scones. We climbed mountains and discovered neolithic standing stones and explored London. I connected with colleagues and wrote book chapters and did interviews and found an inspiring young “rewilding” movement on the rise. I am glad to be back in America, where the roads have shoulders and the stores have corn chips, but am already planning to do some more research in Cumbria next summer. Also…if anyone’s interested, there may be a Lake District Interim coming in the future.
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Check out the Goodall Center Instagram page.

**The Environmental Impact of Dams:** Please join Dr. Brewitt for his lecture at USC-Upstate.

**Breaking Barriers: Latinx in Agriculture:** Come learn about the unique experiences, challenges, and successes of Latinx farmers and agricultural professionals. Discover the rich cultural heritage and diverse perspectives that shape the agricultural industry. [Register here.]

**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.]

**Spartanburg Area Conservancy to host Shucking Good Time event:** Volunteers need to help set up and clean up for this big fundraiser. [Sign up to receive emails for volunteer opportunities.]

**Watershed Internship at Spartanburg Water**

**Spartanburg Science Center Hiring Part-time instructor for Kids Club**

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**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 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 – Center for Excellence in Sustainability]