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Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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Earth Systems and the Science Center

This semester Dr. Bradham’s ENVS 150 Earth Systems class is partnering with the Spartanburg Science Center to create new exhibits that support students and teachers in advancing their understanding of the earth sciences. This collaboration is extra special as Mae Webster ’23 graduated last year with a BS in Environmental Studies and is now the Education Director at the Spartanburg Science Center. She is collaborating with students throughout the process to design, create, and deploy interactive student exhibit ideas. The first part of the project included an exploration into the role of a science center in a community, what makes an exhibit effective, and the importance of having opportunities outside of the classroom to engage in scientific inquiry. To this end, students went to the Roper Mountain Science Center in Greenville where they were given a tour of the facilities and a detailed understanding of how and why the center is so effective. To say this was a great trip is an understatement. Through firsthand experiences, the students realized that the power of a science center lies with bringing together families and making science accessible for all people. From holding pythons (or running away to the back of the room when the snake came out!) to using play sand, to exploring watersheds, the students are excited about their future designs and eager to see them deployed at the Science Center!
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Check out the Goodall Center Instagram page.

Glendale Picnic: Bring your favorite food and a blanket out for an opportunity to relax in nature! Beverages will be provided, and carpooling is encouraged. Contact howardah@wofford.edu or vaneln@wofford.edu with questions.

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 needed to help set up and clean up for this big fundraiser. Sign up to receive emails for volunteer opportunities.

South Carolina Wildlife Federation Scholarships: $500 scholarships are awarded to full-time students currently pursuing degrees in any environmental field at South Carolina schools of higher education. Winners announced in January and awarded in February each year.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Rhode Island School of Design – MA in Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies

One of the newest graduate programs at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) is their MA in Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies (NCSS), which engages socioecological issues within the humanities, social sciences, and art and design.

Students work with faculty in environmental humanities and social sciences to create self-directed pathways of research in areas such as Anthropocene studies, climate change cultures, green urbanisms, and sustainable design. These students go on to work in areas such as environmental advocacy, public policy, urban planning, and more.

NCSS is a year and a half long program with 15-hours of core courses in interdisciplinary environmental humanities and social sciences, 12-hours of NCSS electives including one taken during RISD’s 5-week winter session in January/February, and 12-hours of thesis work. Students also benefit from small class sizes and the highly collaborative nature among the other 16 art and design-based master’s programs.

RISD – Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies