For interim 2024, I had the privilege of travelling to Costa Dulce, San Juan Del Sur in Nicaragua. While at the beautiful resort, which is nestled within a coastal tropical rainforest ecosystem, I was able to bring lessons from the textbook pages to life. One of the most memorable experiences was getting to visit two active volcano sites, and actually seeing flowing magma. In my earth systems class, I learned about the intricate and long process that the formation of a volcano entails. Being a visual learner, I found it difficult at times to wrap my mind around those in-class lectures, as these formations are hard to come by in the states. While at the volcano, I also got to learn about a specific breed of parrot that lives within the craters along the sides of active volcanoes. These birds have adapted to endure the toxic sulfuric smoke emitted from the volcano, as well as the radiated heat. The more I learned about the birds, the greater my desire to see them became. Luckily, I didn’t have to wait long. As the sun set, a flock of these parrots began flying towards the entry of the volcano from a distant field. I watched in awe, completely oblivious to the flowing magma and solely focused on these strange little birds. I kept thinking to myself: Do they know how cool they are? Or how much they represent the greatness that is adaptation and evolution? And on the ride back to Costa Dulce, as the group jammed out to 2000s hits, I felt fulfilled and beyond grateful—not only as a student—but as a human being, that I get to share this planet with so many spectacular organisms.

Interim in Nicaragua
by Katie Stewart ’26

Volcanic landscapes were part of the adventures in Nicaragua during Interim with Dr. Jen Bradham and Dr. Katherine Valde.
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Follow the Goodall Center Instagram page.

**PAL Trail Stewardship Day:** Sign up here to help beautify the River Birch/Wildflower Way sections of the Cottonwood Trail. Raindate: 3/2/24.

**Geophysics Field Camp Experience:** Apply for the 2024 Near Surface Field Experience Program GNOMES. The program runs June10-23 with a $1200 stipend + food and lodging at Towson University.

**Communications Coordinator for ENVS:** We are seeking a student communications coordinator to help develop and implement a content calendar across multiple platforms, including campus channels and social media, for the spring 2024 semester. Interested candidates should submit a resume, a brief statement of interest, and contact information for one reference to Professor Kocher, kocherep@wofford.edu.

**Summer Camp Counselors Needed at Adventure Camp:** Camp runs mid-May through early August. Job Description and application instructions on ENVS Moodle page.

**Lowcountry Land Trust Summer Internships:** Four internship positions are available for summer 2024.

**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.

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**PROFILE OF THE WEEK:**

**University of Utah – Environmental Humanities**

The environmental humanities program at The University of Utah is a 2-year post baccalaureate degree concentrating on the humanities perspective and how it intersects with and influences public policy, scientific, legal, industrial, and corporate concerns.

The university offers a unique opportunity to use this western landscape for field study and research at their Taft-Nicholson Center in Salt Lake City. Their mission is to bridge the arts and humanities with the sciences while promoting environmental awareness and personal connections in nature.

Both MA and MS degrees are available. The MA requires an approved language component, and the MS requires three research methods courses.

The three options for completing this degree include a thesis, project, or non-thesis with varying requirements for course work hours.

University of Utah – Environmental Humanities