The Environmental Studies Department had a big presence this year on the Interim excursion led by Drs. Thurmond (Sociology) and Rayner (Biology). Seven of our majors were enrolled in the course. Outreach Coordinator Haley Briel went along as a driver, and Dr. Savage participated in the first part of the trip as well. The kayaks, truck, trailer and camping gear purchased as part of the Environmental Studies Thinking Like a River initiative (funded by the MAC Foundation) were put to good use!

The field portion of the course began with three days on the Okefenokee Swamp in southern Georgia. Divided into two groups, the intrepid expeditioners braved cold and rainy weather to paddle about 30 miles, camping two nights on wooden platforms in the swamp and listening to the low rumble of nearby alligators. On the water, the groups observed the alligators up close, along with a variety of birds and even a river otter.

The second part of the course took place in the Big Cypress National Preserve and the Everglades National Park. Here in south Florida, the weather was fine and the scenery spectacular. The group paddled through mangroves, braved coastal waves, and, as a highlight, saw manatees. They even attended the Florida Manatee Festival.

A hearty thank-you to Dr. Rayner and Dr. Thurmond for a memorable and fascinating trip!


Upcoming Events and Opportunities

February 9th  
Fierce Green Fire Student Group: First meeting of the semester at 8:30pm in BSA 1.

February 13th  
Deadline for 21st International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM)  
Abstracts: The theme is “Understanding and Adapting to Change” with four focus areas. See Dr. Savage if you are interested in submitting an abstract and visit http://www.issrm2015.iasn.org/. The symposium will take place June 13-18, 2015 in Charleston, SC.

February 24th  
Upstate Forever’s ForeverGreen Annual Awards Luncheon: 11:00am at the Embassy Suites, 670 Verdae Blvd., Greenville. This year’s awards recipients include Wofford grad, Joseph McMillin ’13 and will feature keynote speaker Gus Speth. Tickets are $50 and online reservations can be made at http://upstateforever.org/forevergreenluncheon/.

March 1st  
Deadline to apply for Michigan State University’s Kellog Biological Station Summer Research Experience: Program runs May 18 - August 7, 2015. 8-10 undergraduates will be selected with a $5000 stipend, free room & board, and up to $500 in travel and research expenses for the 12-week program. For more information: http://www.kbs.msu.edu/index.php/education/ugrad/reu

Ongoing  
Living Earth Sanctuary 2015 Internships: Positions available through the growing season (April-November) and ask for a 3-month commitment with a minimum of 25 hr/week. Living Earth Sanctuary is located in Kings Mountain, NC. Free room and board, meals, and educational workshops – personal means of transportation is highly recommended. https://livingearthsanctuary.wordpress.com/wild-dahlia-homestead/2015-internship/

Ongoing  

Visit our www.thinkinglikeariver.com website!

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:  
GeoCorps Summer 2015 Internships

Geological Society of America’s GeoCorps America, in partnership with the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service, are offering paid summer geoscience positions in public lands around the US. Online applications are currently being accepted through February 8th. Candidates will be interviewed by phone. GeoCorps participants will receive a living stipend and on-site housing or housing allowance during their geoscience project.

The program began in 1997 through a partnership with the National Park Service and has grown each year with the number of geoscience projects steadily increasing.

To see the list of current positions available visit https://rock.geosociety.org/geo/GeoCorpsJobDescriptions.asp and visit the GeoCorps Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/GeoCorps for updates.