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Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



Rachel Brittenham '13 pictured with Dr. Savage at Honors Convocation.



Volume 3, Issue 24

2013 Harrington Award Goes to Rachel Brittenham



Take a Virtual Tour of The Goodall Environmental Studies Center

Search Goodall Environmental Studies Center Wofford College on Google to take a tour inside and outside the building. *Additional outside views will be added when the grounds are in full bloom.

*"To see a world in a grain of sand, and a Heaven in a wildflower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand, And Eternity in an hour."*

John W. Harrington, beloved Professor of Geology at Wofford for almost 20 years, loved this passage by William Blake and made it come alive for his students year after year, as he introduced them to the wondrous dynamic world of the deep past and shimmering present. Professor Harrington's style of promoting curiosity in the field and delighting in the challenge of interpreting observations is a guiding force of the Environmental Studies Program that is part of his legacy. Concepts like the "wasness of the is," the "cone of vision," and the "four critical aspects" with its questions of "what, which, where, and how?" provide a tool kit necessary to fully understanding an environmental situation.

The comparative and holistic use of humanities, sciences, and social sciences perspectives provides the liberal arts context in which these tools are used to define, understand, and seek solutions to modern environmental problems. One of John Harrington's intellectual heroes was geologist Charles Lyell whose dictum was "trust reason not authority." John encouraged, valued and rewarded personal

insights and creative reasoning in his students. This award in his honor continues that tradition.

The Harrington Award is given by the Environmental Studies Program to the graduating senior who embodies John Harrington's curiosity, creativity and excitement for field learning, while exhibiting high academic achievement, scholarly promise, and intellectual and moral integrity.

This year, the award is made to Rachel Brittenham. Rachel's achievements at Wofford embody the curiosity, creativity, and integrity needed for environmental leadership. A double major in Environmental Studies and Biology, Rachel persistently navigated diverse challenges during her senior capstone project, guiding the efforts of students, staff and visitors who together kept over a ton of recyclable materials collected during football game tailgate events from entering the landfill. Rachel has also been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

Rachel's commitment continues as she embarks on a Global Masters in Development Practice at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland where she will also be advancing her basketball career with the Dublin Mercy superleague team. Congratulations, Rachel!



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- May 3rd **9th Annual Spartanburg Regional Classic:** Come out and enjoy the races in downtown Spartanburg! The first race starts at 4:00pm. Races are scheduled throughout the afternoon/evening with the women's pros starting at 7:05pm and the men's pros at 8:30pm. May is National Bike Month! Check out <http://www.active-living.org/Spartanburg-Regional-Classic.html> for more details.
- May 4th **Croft State Park Fishing for Fun:** 8:00am-2:00pm, Volunteers needed to help with a day of fishing for low-income children. Contact Jan Patton pattonje@email.wofford.edu if you are interested in helping out.
- May 4th **Spartanburg County Spring 2013 Bird Count:** Help count the bird population of the Upstate. Contact Lyle Campbell, lcampbell@uscupstate.edu, for information.
- May 6th **Terrio Cart Decorating:** Come out to the Black Science Annex at 2:00pm to help decorate the ENVS golf cart for the Terrio. The race starts at 11:00am on Tuesday morning.
- May 6th **Fierce Green Fire Meeting:** Last meeting of the year in BSA 1 at 8:30pm.
- May 11th **Concert at Glendale Shoals:** *The Antibodies* will perform at the outdoor amphitheater at 5:30pm. Admission is free, but we are collecting donated supplies for The Adult Learning Center (writing utensils, notebooks, dry erase materials, etc.).
- Ongoing **Job Opening at GOLS - Palmetto Conservation Foundation:** GOLS is hiring someone to work 10 to 25 hours a week throughout the summer and into fall depending on the student's schedule. Tasks include answering phone calls and emails, taking group reservations, camp registrations, maintaining social media and website, and writing a monthly newsletter. The position may also include helping with teambuilding facilitation, rock climbing birthday parties, and summer camps. Pay is \$10/hour. If you are interested, please contact Kari Hanna, (803) 771- 0870 or kari@palmettoconservation.org.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

State University of New York – College of Environmental Science & Forestry

SUNY's College of Environmental Science & Forestry (ESF) is ranked number 77 in the National Universities category of the *U.S. News & World Report's* 2013 edition of Best Colleges and 32 on the list of Top Public Schools.

ESF offers advanced degrees in the areas of Environmental and Forest Biology, Environmental and Forest Chemistry, Environmental Resources Engineering, Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Forest Resource Management, Landscape Architecture, Paper and Bioprocess Engineering, and

Sustainable Construction Management and Wood Science. "Each program provides a unique opportunity for you to further your education with professors who are dedicated to both their teaching and research endeavors."

SUNY's Forestry and Landscape Architecture programs have been in existence since 1911 and the Paper Engineering program is the oldest in the country and was started in 1920.

Visit <http://www.esf.edu/graduate/acadprog.htm> for more information.