

# The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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## *Furthering the Environmental Humanities in a Pandemic*

*by Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden*

Where do you gather for animated conversations, laughter, and learning? For many of us in academia and creative endeavors, our professional organizations offer a place for dialogue and camaraderie. The [Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment \(ASLE\)](#) has been my primary professional organization, and I'm lucky to help sustain its work as Co-President with Dr. Bethany Wiggin, founding director of the [Penn Program in Environmental Humanities](#).

What is ASLE and what does it do? ASLE is a professional organization that seeks "to inspire and promote intellectual work in the environmental humanities and arts." Founded in 1992, ASLE hosts biennial conferences, including the [2007 conference at Wofford College](#), which was my first ASLE conference. ASLE also has special interest groups; a [premiere journal](#); international affiliates; and a mentorship program for graduate students and early career professionals. We award translation and subvention grants, book awards and graduate

student paper awards, and curate a repository of [Open Access teaching resources](#) for the environmental humanities.

Being an officer during a pandemic has meant an opportunity to co-create new endeavors. Together with the managing director and executive council, as Co-Presidents, we've worked to elevate public environmental humanities work. We began 2021 with [Public Writing & Civic Engagement virtual workshops](#) to further members' work in and with communities. Our [Spotlight series](#) launches in March and features new creative, critical, and publicly engaged work by members. And in July, we'll host [a virtual conference on the theme of EmergencE/Y](#), a timely and compelling topic as we imagine and foster more just and sustainable futures together. We hope you're doing that, too, in whatever community you call yours!

*Dr. Barbas Rhoden is a professor of Modern, Languages, and Literatures at Wofford, and ASLE Co-President (2020-21)*



*Above: ASLE leadership team takes on strategic planning at their 2020 retreat in Portland, Oregon.*

*Below: Elected and appointed members of ASLE leadership team at the close of the 2020 retreat in Portland.*



## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

March 19<sup>th</sup>  
1:00pm  
Zoom

**ASLE Spotlight – Human/Non-Human Relations:** New public facing ASLE initiative to highlight recent creative, critical, and activist work in the environmental humanities.

[Information/Registration](#)

April 5<sup>th</sup>  
Application deadline

**The Institute for Energy and the Environment at Vermont Law School summer internships:** For students in environmental studies and sciences who have at least completed their sophomore year by the start of the internship. Clean Energy Advocacy Internships offer a chance for 2-3 students interested in future careers in clean energy advocacy to spend the summer with us at our Institute for Energy and the Environment (Summer 2021 internship is likely to be fully virtual again). Program dates: June 1-Aug 5. [Apply here.](#)

April 15<sup>th</sup>  
1:00-3:00pm

**Litter Sweep at Butterfly Creek Park:** Meet at the Farmer's Market, 498 Howard Street. All are welcome!

April 30<sup>th</sup>  
Application Deadline

**USM Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's Summer Field Program:** Two summer sessions available offering studies in coastal environments with intensive field and laboratory-based settings. [See their brochure](#) for more information.

On going  
Until position filled

**Spring 2021 SC Forestry commission Environmental Education Internship:** Help plan and implement forest conservation programs for natural resource professionals, formal and nonformal educators, preK-12 students, and/or the general public. 10-20 hours Monday – Friday (8:00 - 4:30) with occasional weekend work and/or travel (expenses covered by SCFC). **Location:** Harbison State Forest, 5600 Broad River Rd., Columbia, SC 29212. **Contact Project Supervisor:** Matt Schnabel, Environmental Education Coordinator, [mschnabel@scfc.gov](mailto:mschnabel@scfc.gov), 803-728-5968



## PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

### Johns Hopkins University – MA in Environmental Sciences & Policy

The Krieger School of Arts and Sciences at Johns Hopkins has a graduate program in Environmental Sciences and Policy that covers a broad position centered at the juncture between science and policy. Graduates of the program emerge with a combination of expertise in science and policy that enables them to assume key positions in public and private entities responsible for safeguarding our environmental future.

The program offers a flexible curriculum that allows students to tailor their academic experience to suit their personal needs and interests.

Core coursework includes ecosystem science and management, maritime law, land and water conservation, air quality management, oceanic stewardship, energy and carbon policy, and geographic information systems (GIS). In addition, students may identify a concentration in Conservation Biology, International Environmental Policy, Sustainability, Climate and Energy, or Remediation, Compliance and Assessment.

[Johns Hopkins – MA in Environmental Sciences & Policy](#)