

The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Volume 11, Issue 5



Elevating Climate Conversations at Wofford

by Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden

On March 31, students, faculty and staff, and community members picked up brushes and paint to co-create art to elevate conversations about climate. We wrote messages of hope and urgency; talked with one another about how the climate emergency impacts our lives; and together painted images for a more regenerative future.

The event was hosted by students in [Ibero-American Environmental Humanities](#) (SPAN 420), taught for the first time at Wofford this spring. Students in the course thought with theoretical and creative texts from Latin America and Spain; listened to the voices of Indigenous and rural activists organizing to safeguard territories and lifeways in the Americas; and together envisioned, designed, and carried out a final, collaborative, participatory project. In addition to the art event, they started the [first-ever, student-led petition for divestment](#) by the college from fossil fuels; started a [new Instagram account](#) to educate peers; and met with Chief Financial Officer

Chris Gardner and Wofford President Nayef Samhat to ask for change.

As a faculty member, I'm proud of the students' efforts and grateful for students in Spanish to have a role alongside other classes, such as those in environmental studies and biology, in elevating climate conversations. Colleagues' teaching in the social sciences, like sociology and international affairs, helped students make connections to dynamics of power at different levels of scale. And art, such as the banner centerpiece by Walker Antonio, brought a message to life. So, as we head toward Earth Day, we say thank you and *adelante!* all who further the work of climate education, justice, and resilience, here and everywhere.



Collaborative work on the banner with centerpiece by student artist Walker Antonio.



Ibero-Am EH students and friends holding up a banner in support of Climate Justice.



Close-up of messages and images added to the artwork elevating climate justice + resilience

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WOFFORD

Where
thought
leads.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Ongoing

Spartanburg Area Conservation Internship: SPACE is seeking an unpaid intern for summer 2021 to work with land conservation. Any interested students can contact Dr. Savage savageks@wofford.edu.

April 15th
1:00-3:00pm

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

April 16th
1:00pm
Zoom

ASLE Spotlight – Water Works: New public facing ASLE initiative to highlight recent creative, critical, and activist work in the environmental humanities.

[Information/Registration](#)

April 30th
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, 803-728-5968

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Vermont Law School – Environmental Law Center

The Environmental Law Center (ELC) at Vermont Law School boasts that it offers more environmental and energy law courses than any other U.S. law school. From historically preserved and environmentally friendly campus buildings to participating in locally grown sustainable agriculture, students learn environmental concepts and energy policy in the world around them.

ELC offers several degrees including a Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP), Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL), Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP) and Master

of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ). Each of these can be pursued jointly with a JD degree. Post-JD students have the opportunity to pursue a Master of Law (LLM) in Energy Law, Environmental Law, American Legal Studies, or Food and Agriculture Law. Dual degrees are also offered through institutions such as Yale, Cambridge, and the University of Vermont.

Environmental Law Center at [Vermont Law School](#)