

The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



Thomas Rain Crowe tells students about the Poetry Tower, seen in the background of this photo.

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Seniors in the Mountains by Riley Garrison '18

This weekend, a handful of ENVS seniors escaped to the mountains for some much-needed fresh air and adventure. Saturday morning, we clung to our seatbelts for dear life as we weaved through the winding mountain roads in our over-packed van.

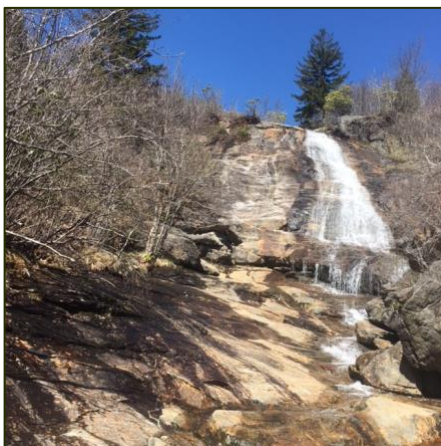
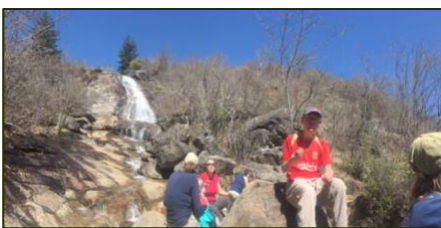
We stopped just before lunch at the "Graveyard Fields" overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway. From there, our large and noisy group hiked about three miles to a striking waterfall. The trails were packed, and the weather was incredibly perfect. We met a total of 34 adorable dogs, so, we felt a great sense of accomplishment as we continued our journey.

That afternoon, we arrived at the Poetry Tower. The views and the seclusion were breathtaking. There was an inexplicable magical feeling that lingered in the wilderness around us as we made camp.

At dusk, we trekked to the Cherokee Reservation where Rev. Ron Robinson was waiting to introduce us to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. As the sun settled behind the blue ridge mountains, we stood just a few feet from a herd of young Elk.

The next morning, we woke to the sounds of birds chirping and the Grouse flapping its wings. As we drank coffee by the fire, we listened to poet, Thomas Rain Crowe, speak about the tower and the wilderness surrounding us. Thomas was the original builder of the poetry tower. He built it in a way that promotes spiritual energy to flow from the soil below to the tip of the spire on top.

Thomas had us pay tribute to the place by offering up cornmeal to the gods. Professor Lane flung the cornmeal in all directions as Thomas played a mystical song with his wooden flute.



Scenes from the overnight trip with ENVS Senior Seminar to Cherokee, North Carolina.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Ongoing

Week-long Summer Course – Examining Marine Climate Change: June 25-July 2, Appledore Island, Maine. Students will examine evidence of the Earth’s changing climate, the greenhouse effect and natural forcing on global climate, sea-level rise, alterations to ocean chemistry and temperature, marine ecological impacts, human coastal impacts, and possible policy solutions. See [Shoals Marine Laboratory](#) for more information.

April 2018

Job Opportunity with YMCA Camp Thunderbird: Environmental education instructors needed for seasonal positions to work with 3rd-8th graders. Currently seeking instructors for the spring session, but also need instructors for this coming fall session too. Contact Susannah Bryant '16: bryantse@email.wofford.edu for more information.

April 27th

4:00pm

Downtown Spartanburg

14th Annual Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System Criterium: Make plans to be in downtown Spartanburg for the #FASTESTNIGHT. The Crit is a closed-circuit, multi-lap cycling race through downtown. Visit their [website](#) for event details, course map, and opportunities to volunteer.

April 28th

10:00am-2:00pm

RXcycle Spartanburg – National Drug Take Back Day: [Spartanburg Water](#) and the Spartanburg Police Dept. are partnering to provide safe disposal of unused and expired prescription and over the counter medication. 2 locations: CVS, 87 Garner Road; or Bi-Lo 2199 Southport Road.

May 1st

11:00am-1:00pm

Olin 101

Chasing Coral: A screening and discussion on the health of our oceans. Join Dr. Peter Brewitt, assistant professor of ENVIS; Dr. Geoff Mitchell, assistant professor of biology; Dr. Dave Kusher, professor of biology; and Lindsey Jacobs with Conservation Voters of SC, for discussion after the film.

May 16th

7:30pm

Rosalind S Richardson
Center for the Arts

An Evening with Charles Frazier: The author of the award-winning and bestselling novel, *Cold Mountain*, is on a book tour with his new novel, *Varina*. Hub City Books is hosting a discussion between Frazier and Professor John Lane. 50 free tickets are being offer to the Wofford community (Wofford ID required) at the door, first come first serve. Tickets are \$30 (includes a copy of the book). Visit [Eventbrite](#) for more information.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Tufts University – MS in Sustainable Water Management

Tufts University’s professional master’s degree in Sustainable Water Management (SWM) is a 12-month program that prepares students for professional careers in the water sector.

Students can choose between four program tracks in Water Diplomacy; Water Infrastructure for Human Settlements; Water, Food, and Energy; and WASH in International Development and Humanitarian Response. This chosen track will direct the student’s secondary coursework and summer practicum.

With over five decades as a center of environmental leadership, Tufts has cultivated a dedicated water studies program that includes faculty and experts that collaborate with academic and real-world settings.

The SWM degree continues to expand the water conversations at Tufts with a new and exciting opportunity for students which enables them to pursue a variety of futures within the water discipline.

[Tufts University – Sustainable Water Management](#)