Arizona Summer Experience by Carol Morel

It was scorching hot, bone dry, and truly one of my best life experiences so far. My summer conducting hydrogeochemical research in Tucson, Arizona, forever impacted me as a scholar and a community member. Not only did I have the opportunity to delve into the chemical analysis of copper mining’s impact on groundwater quality, but I learned what it meant to be a scientist conducting research on a controversial topic. It was fascinating learning about the opposition and support, and their opinions on mining in the arid Southwest. My adopted community for the summer taught me how important it was to have a sense of social responsibility as an environmental scientist; to thoroughly and objectively analyze any major possible impact to safe drinking water or unpolluted air and to offer solutions to protect our resources.

I also spent a large portion of my time exploring the breathtaking mountains that appeared as if they were within arm’s reach everywhere I went. The monsoon season that brought life to the mountains made it so that I could even swim in waterfalls. Becoming intimate with the land surrounding Biosphere 2, the facility I lived in, was another adventure. Isolated from any major town or city, I became acquainted with javelinas, gila monsters, bobcats, rattlesnakes, and the surprisingly aggressive gopher snake. I am so thankful to experience something that has impacted me so deeply.
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Yawkey Overnight Trip*: 10 students have an opportunity to experience the alligator habitat on this 22,000-acre preserve near Georgetown, SC. Contact Dr. Simmons if you are interested in going, simmonjw@wofford.edu.


Mary Black Foundation presents Dr. Ann Kulze, The Happiness Diet: Learn how to use food to boost happiness, beat stress and unleash your brain’s remarkable power. Chapman Cultural Center – refreshments, 5:00-5:30pm. This event is free to the public; please RSVP by October 17 to lriley@maryblackfoundation.org.

Santee Cooper Lecture Series - Reimagining Infrastructure*: The first of three lectures will kick-off our final Santee Cooper Lecture Series with a lecture and “Beaver Believers” documentary movie by Sarah Koenigsberg, filmmaker, photographer, and educator, in Olin 101.

Santee Cooper Lecture Series - Reimagining Infrastructure*: The second lecture will feature beekeeper, Robert MacKimmie from CityBees in San Francisco at the Goodall Environmental Studies Center. Dinner will be provided following this event. Transportation to and from campus will be provided. See Dr. Brewitt for transportation information and to RSVP for dinner by October 21 (limit 40 people).

Santee Cooper Lecture Series - Reimagining Infrastructure*: Following dinner at Goodall (see above to RSVP), the third lecture on hydropower will feature Dr. Nina French from Lucid Energy. See Dr. Brewitt for transportation information to and from campus.

Lake Conestee Nature Park with Reimagining Infrastructure Guests*: The bus departs from Black Science Annex to Lake Conestee for a walking tour with Dr. Dave Hargett, executive director. See Dr. Brewitt to join the group for this walk.

*These count toward your two required extracurricular events for the semester.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

University of Vermont – MS in Natural Resources

The Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources maintains a small graduate program of 70-100 students to keep a personal and community-oriented atmosphere. Their Masters program in natural resources offers concentrations in aquatic ecology and watershed science; environment, society and public affairs; environmental thought and culture; forest sciences and wildlife sciences.

The aquatic ecology and watershed science concentration works closely with the Vermont Water Resources and Lake Studies Center and the Vermont Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit to provide students with training and research experience in the aquatic sciences. Students in the environment, society and public affairs concentration focus on social issues that include land use planning, policy and planning, ecological economics, and park and wilderness management. The environmental thought and culture concentration is an individually designed Master’s degree with a foundation in the ethical and philosophical traditions that inform environmental theory and action. The forest sciences and wildlife sciences concentrations work closely together while maintaining their traditional and individual distinctions, allowing students to choose from a broad range of topics -- from sustainable forests to wildlife habitats.

http://www.uvm.edu/rsenr/?Page=mastersprogram.html