

The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Senior Eleanor Crawford traveled to AASHE's annual conference in Spokane, WA where she met environmentalist, activist, and author Bill Mckibben.



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AASHE Annual Conference Report by Eleanor Crawford '20



Last week I traveled to Spokane, Washington for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) annual conference. The trip was AMAZING!, a total rush, life changing and inspirational. I went to at least 15 sessions a day where passionate speakers shared ideas and experiences about how they are making their campuses authentically sustainable. Each speaker began their presentation with a land acknowledgement, paying tribute to the indigenous people and culture that remains on the land we were on.

The engaging and empowering talk by Varshini Prakash brought tears to my eyes. She is the executive director and founder of the [Sunrise Movement](#), a platform for young adults to engage with climate action, while providing tools to hold institutions and corporations accountable for their carbon footprint. This movement has helped to launch the Green New Deal, through empowering youth across the country to come together and fight for the future we deserve. She kindled within her audience a new idea of the word power—our rage and hope as a collective youth is

so sacred, and molding it into a force of power can be just the change we need. Power to the people!

Another especially impactful talk was with Bill Mckibben, environmentalist, activist, and author, who has been my idol for years. He created the platform [350.org](#), which has spread globally as both a call to action and a beacon of hope. His talk began with chilling statistics and images regarding the turn our planet has taken as a result of human activity. When I met him, he asked me what I was doing for the environment. When I faltered in my response he said he was proud of me, and that I should be proud of myself. He went on to remind me that I can always do more, which I found simultaneously humbling and inspiring.

The conference was also extremely welcoming. As a solo traveler, I met new friends from campuses and organizations across the country. This does not even begin to describe the multitude of experiences from my trip. I would love to share more -- just ask.



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

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

November 7th
5:30-7:30pm
Macedonia Missionary Baptist
Church, 502 S. Daniel Morgan
Ave., 29306

Toward a More Walkable Spartanburg*: How can we improve walkability and build it beyond downtown? Come learn from urban designer and walkability expert Jeff Speck. Sponsored by *Upstate Forever, Piedmont Natural Gas, Mary Black Foundation, OneSpartanburg, Spartanburg Area Transportation Study, City of Spartanburg, and Partners for Active Living.* [Register for this free event.](#)

Ongoing

Job Opportunities in Conservation and Restoration: [The Great Basin Institute](#) is a nonprofit organization that specializes in conservation and restoration all throughout the West. They are currently hiring for over 60 paid positions ranging from ecological monitoring, wildlife monitoring, trail maintenance, range land management, and fuels reduction.



Students in ENVS 334 harvested Jerusalem artichokes from the Goodall garden that they then took to the Church of the Advent to help make artichoke relish for the church's annual Bazaar.



PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Montana State University – MS in Fish and Wildlife Management

The Department of Ecology at Montana State offers two graduate degrees in Fish and Wildlife Management and Biological Sciences with opportunities to continue on with their PhD programs in those same areas.

Coursework in Fish and Wildlife Management applies research with careers related to fisheries or wildlife biology, while Biological Sciences primarily emphasize principles of ecology with careers related to government agencies or academia.

Montana State's Fish and Wildlife Management

program is one of the oldest and most successful in the US. Its location in the Rocky Mountains utilizes the local land, rivers and streams and makes it ideal for research close to campus. Students are advised by six faculty members in the Ecology Department and two members of the Montana Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit, which is part of the USGS's Biological Resources Division.

[Montana State – Department of Ecology](#)