

The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Members of the ANACAFE cooperative in Coccochó, Amazonas, Peru, with Dr. Barbas-Rhoden and crew from Little River Roasting Co.



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Coccochó Trip by Laura Barbas-Rhoden



Don Olegario Medina, one of the founders of the ANACAFE cooperative, in front of his fields.



Artwork created in nature at Glendale Shoals by students in Professors Zides and Brown's "Learning to Live in the Moment" interim class.

Every once in a while, you get to see storylines of hard work converge in a single, energizing experience. Recently for me, that experience was 36 hours in the Peruvian village of Coccochó during a trip I made as interpreter-friend of Little River Roasting, our local coffee company.

Our crew journeyed to meet a cooperative of farmers doing their best to do right by way of environmental, business, and community sustainability: they cultivate shade-grown, organic, fair trade, coffee in high elevation plots that nurture biodiversity and protect watersheds.

As the moon rose over the Andes, and our pickups pulled into the deeply rutted main street, people poured around us, welcome banners bobbed, and a band played. Storylines converged. Months before, an entrepreneur (and Wofford alum) took a calculated risk that aligned with his values and bought their

coffee. His daughter (a Wofford alum), who a few years before had shot footage for a documentary during a term abroad, snapped photos for marketing. On the Andean side, coffee growers toiled for decades for a better future. The international cooperative movement gave them means to organize. Education in prestigious Peruvian universities sharpened their agricultural expertise. And finally, consumers who increasingly choose sustainable coffee created a market for the product.

Want some advice drawn from our mountaintop experience? Become part of an awesome story. Buy from or invest in farm-to-consumer enterprises, learn a language, promote education, advocate for sound environmental practices, and take your liberal arts love into the world for good.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

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

- March 11th**
1:00pm-3:00pm
Care for Creation Together!*: Students are needed to volunteer in the Northside Community near Cleveland Park this Saturday. Volunteers will be saving native trees from invasive vegetation. Bring gloves; wear long pants and close-toed shoes. Sign up at chaplain@wofford.edu. Sponsored by Wofford's Office of the Chaplain, Trees Coalition, and Spartanburg Green Congregations.
- March 15th**
7:00pm
Olin 101
Christian Hunt – “Red Wolf Revival” Film*: Join us for this film about the Red Wolf recovery program in NC. A discussion will follow led by Christian Hunt from Defenders of Wildlife.
- Week of March 20th**
ENVS representative needed for committee: Wofford's Office of the Chaplain is organizing a Pharmaceuticals Take-Back Day on campus (*Date TBD*). A volunteer from the ENVS department is needed to serve. Contact Dr. Savage or Rev. Robinson if you are interested in this leadership position.
- March 23rd**
11:00am
Milliken 121
“Coyote Research on the Savannah River Site”*: John Kilgo '89 is a research wildlife biologist with the US Forest Service Southern Research Station's Center for Forest Watershed Research in Aiken, SC. Since 2005, he has studied the ecology of coyotes and their effects on Southeastern ecosystems, particularly deer populations, and for the past three years he has also been studying wild pigs.
- March 23rd**
7:00pm
Leonard Auditorium
5th Annual Tyson Family Lecture*: Featuring “Coyote: A Conversation between Dan Flores & John Lane About One of the Most Resilient Animals in America.” Dan Flores (*Coyote America*) and Wofford's own John Lane (*Coyote Settles the South*) will discuss the increasing presence of this mezo-predator among us.
- March 25th**
9:00am-2:00pm
Rain or shine
9th Annual Spartanburg County Household Hazardous Waste Collection & Rain Barrel Sale: Spartanburg County residents may bring hazardous materials to the Spartanburg County Administration Building, 366 N. Church Street (enter from Magnolia Street). See website www.spartanburgcounty.org/166/Recycling for lists of acceptable and unacceptable items or visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RecycleSpartanburg>
- March 28th**
7:00pm
Olin 101
“Counter-intuitive Public Policy: Federal Oversight of New Chemicals”*: Warren Muir, retired from the National Academy of Sciences, will discuss the new chemical review provisions that are now part of the Toxic Substances Control Act. This lecture is co-hosted by the Environmental Studies and Chemistry departments.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Yale University – School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

Yale University offers several graduate degrees in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. The Master of Forestry (MF), the oldest forestry program in the western hemisphere, is “designed for individuals who want to be at the forefront of forest resource management and policy.” The Master of Environmental Management (MEM) “provides students with scientific understanding of ecological and social systems that can be applied in policy or management context.” And the Master of Forest Science (MFS), and Master of Environmental

Science (MESc) are designed for students pursuing scientific research in forest related or non-forest related topics.

There are also several opportunities to pursue joint-degrees in Management (MBA), Law (JD), Architecture (MArch), International and Development Economics (MA), International Relations (MA), Divinity (MDiv or MAR), and Public Health (MPH). See the school's website at <http://environment.yale.edu/> for more information.