

Activist films address global issues

Humanities Lecture Hall to host environmental film festival

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Environmental activism comes to UNC Asheville Oct. 23 with a series of short films from around the world promoting awareness and sustainability.

"The Wild & Scenic Film Festival is the largest environmental film festival in the nation," said Jamie Ervin, campus and community outreach coordinator for UNCA's Student Environmental Center.

The festival includes a series of short environmental films from around the world.

The films address global environmental justice, the impact of energy production, inspiring youth activists and the struggle to keep water affordable in the United States.

"They used to have it at the Asheville Pizza and Brewery, but they sold it out every year and so they wanted a bigger venue," Ervin said.

Clean Water for North Carolina and the UNCA Student Environmental Center will host the festival in the Humanities Lecture Hall.

"Asheville Pizza is great because it's like you're sitting on couches, but they can only fit about 150 people in there, and the Humanities Lecture Hall seats about 300, so we're hoping to sell it out," Ervin said.

Sponsors of the film festival include WNCW 88.7 FM, Luella's BBQ, West End Bakery and Diamond Brand Outdoors.

Ervin said Clean Water for North Carolina worked really hard to get the word out, collaborate with local business and get the community involved in the film festival.

"We're planning on it being around two hours with topics ranging from the cleaning of the Pigeon River to climate change, so the topics are really just all over the place," Ervin said.

These are films from all over the world that challenge the environmental movement, but also highlight the successes so people know there are solutions to these problems, he said.

"The film festival has never been promoted this widely before, but obviously there's a lot of support for it because it's selling out every time," Ervin said.

Senior psychology student Ed Henderson had not heard about the festival but said he might have an interest in going.

"People should do their part if they're motivated, but there is really not too much of a point because I think we're too far gone," Henderson said.

However, Ervin said he feels people shouldn't give up hope.



Photo Illustration by Susan Israel and Jesse Michel

Wild & Scenic Film Festival takes place at UNCA's Humanities Lecture Hall on Oct. 23. The festival features short films about environmental issues.

"The point of the film festival is that people recognize the problems at hand, but they also can learn that there are solutions and we're not doomed as a people," Ervin said.

Henderson said trying to clean up the environment won't help if prevention plans aren't put into place.

"I think climate change is obviously the biggest issue, but more than cleaning up, I think we should focus more on downsizing manufacturing," Henderson said. "Manufacturing is what is really killing our planet."

Matt Killough, sophomore and business student, said keeping the environment clean is a big deal to him, but he isn't obsessed with it.

"I like recycling more because of its economical implication. Buying a hybrid isn't green and responsible in my opinion," Killough said. "I like and respect the environment and I'll plant a tree here and there, but I don't feel like I need to watch a bunch of movies."

Wild & Scenic extends its invitation to anyone in the community, not just students, according to Ervin.

"Environmental work really just transcends all of us, so anyone from Western North Carolina is welcome to come," Ervin said.

Tickets are available at businesses and locations all over Asheville.

"We're trying to get a lot of UNCA students to come out since it's on the campus. It's a really good opportunity for them, especially freshmen, because a lot of the time they're not particularly aware of environmental issues. That's stuff that you learn about in college more and more," Ervin said.

Wild & Scenic features a selection of films from the largest environmental film festival in the U.S., held in Nevada City, Calif.

"We've got about 10 films that we plan to show and they go anywhere from two minutes long to half an hour," Ervin said.

The price of admission is \$10 or \$5 with a student ID. Tickets are on sale now at the Student Environmental Center in Highsmith Union. All proceeds go to Clean Water for North Carolina. Starting time is Oct. 23, 7 p.m. Doors are at 6:30 p.m.

STUDENT MODELS NEEDED:

A Fletcher manufacturer of Tote Bags and Accessories sold in college bookstores is looking for UNCA student models (male and female) for an on-site photo shoot in mid-October for their 2010 product catalog. E-mail full-length, ¾ body, and headshot to cfraley@carolinasewnproducts.com (professional photos not required). Pay starts at \$15/hour.

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