

The Whetstone

Montreat College's Student Voice

Screening of American Ecosystems Documentary a Success

Jim Shores

On Tuesday, Sept. 28, the Montreat College Communication Major screened the student-directed documentary, *The Road West*. Funded by a Ledford Grant through the Appalachian College Association, the 57-minute film chronicled the adventures of 24 Montreat students on a journey to 20 national parks. The documentary was filmed by Montreat students Todd Yancey, a 2010 graduate in Outdoor Education, and

Carla Porterfield, an Environmental Studies major. The project was overseen and produced by Dr. Jim Shores, a professor in both the Environmental Studies and Communication majors.

The goal of the documentary was to chronicle the positive transformations that occur on the American Ecosystems course, a 26-day field immersion course that explores the ecology of the American West. The course takes place bi-

annually in May and June, and is a core class for the Environmental Studies major.

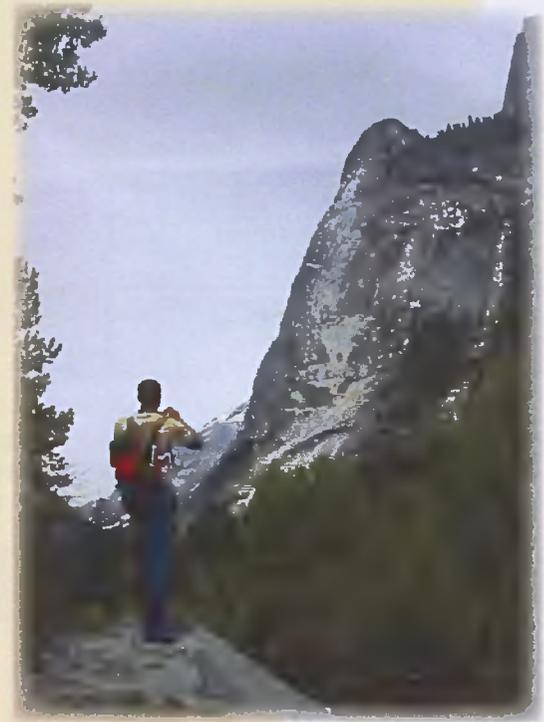
About a hundred students, faculty, and alumni attended the screening, which took place in Gaither Chapel. The responses were enthusiastic. One student, Jacob Clement (OE) responded that, "This was a real film. I would watch this on the Discovery Channel. It was very inspirational."

Yancey and Porterfield plan to present their proj-

ect at the annual summit meeting of the Appalachian College Association on Oct. 23 in Abingdon, VA. After that the documentary will be sent on to the Halogen Network in Charlotte, NC for their consideration in terms of possibly airing it. The students will enter the documentary into several film competitions in hopes that it can get some screenings. It will also be shown at the Gideon Digital Media Arts Festival in August, 2011 taking place at Ridgecrest, NC.

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make

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"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."

→ Colossians 1:15-16