

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE:  
THE WORLD OF FOOD

ABSTRACT FOR A PANEL DISCUSSION:

*FOSTERING A HEALTHY FOOD CULTURE: ON CAMPUS AND AWAY*

Participants: Yancey Fouché  
Bill Allen, Professor of French and Italian, Furman University  
2-3 other participants will include campus farmers and students

Numerous initiatives have brought widespread recognition of problems the Slow Food movement has long been espousing: industrialized farming and processed food present major challenges to environmental sustainability and public health. Liberal arts institutions have a unique opportunity to foster more responsible food systems. The lead panelists and other stakeholders in this session will share diverse approaches for facilitating student engagement with food issues through academic, co-curricular and/or paraprofessional activities. The goal is for students to acquire the knowledge to make informed food choices and to spread their knowledge of food issues to wider circles both in their personal lives as well as through their eventual professional activities.

(Administrator)

Davidson College's Director of Sustainability Yancey Fouché will discuss the efforts of two institutions over ten years to transform campus and community food systems. These include course- and research-integration of food studies; building towards closed-loop campus food systems with on-site farms and compost operations; student food activism; and approaches to employee education and engagement.

(Professor)

Furman's Slow Food Italian Style study abroad program has been in high demand as a May Experience course since 2010. Students spend three weeks in Italy in both urban and rural settings exploring Italian approaches to food production, preparation, and consumption. Two weeks spent on an organic farm in the Lazio region provide ample time to witness traditional cultivation techniques, participate in food harvesting, and learning about ingredients and culinary traditions. Frequent reading and writing assignments allow students to reflect on their experiences in an increasingly sophisticated manner; daily in-depth large-group discussions demand that students draw on their individual experiences and disciplinary approaches to analyze problems and propose solutions. Dr. William G. Allen's discussion of this program will offer ideas for course development on campus or abroad.

(Farmer)

Both Davidson College and Furman University employ on-campus agricultural professionals as part of campus-wide initiatives on health and sustainability. The presence of a small farm operation on campus allows students to engage directly with sustainable food production and

to learn both traditional and modern farming techniques which a majority of students are now unfamiliar with. A campus farm manager will describe the unique opportunities and challenges to maintaining farms on liberal arts college campuses.

(Student)

A student or alumna/-us from each institution who has participated in one of the highlighted activities will describe what they learned and how it transformed their ideas about food and nutrition.