



Members of the Habitat for Humanity Shack-A-Thon Team.

Looking Back on 2022-2023

First, we would like to invite you all to take a peek at some of the highlights from our current students this academic year. It has been a truly dynamic year for the Caldwell Fellows Program and we are grateful to have been a part of it all.

[Year in Review Slideshow](#)



The Class of 2026 at the Haw River State Park retreat center.

The Month of May: *Learning Beyond the Classroom*

Experiential learning is our program's methodology. Even within the walls of classrooms, dinner seminars, CCL, and retreats - we build curriculum around experience and guided reflection. And at every opportunity, we get Fellows out of the classroom - into the community and wider world. The month of May is a particularly concentrated time for Caldwell Fellows experiential programs. Here's a snapshot:



The 2023 Wilderness Expedition members.

The Wilderness Expedition

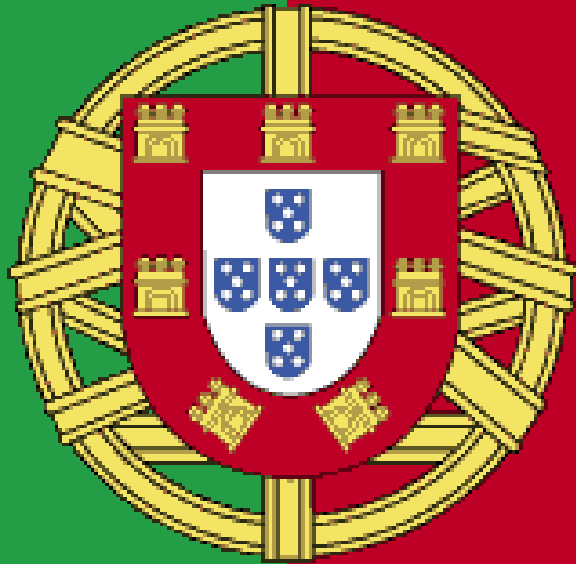
From May 6 to 14, Nine current Fellows completed the Caldwell Fellows Wilderness Expedition. One of the signature experiences of our program, students who accept this challenge are pushed to new discoveries of their personal strength and resilience. Students venture into some of our country's stellar wilderness areas, characteristically a first trip to the western US for our students. The leadership of our own alumni is the piece that makes our program truly distinctive. Special thanks go out to this year's leaders, Julia O'Brien '20 and Jerrica Kirkley '06.



SATELLITE campers and counselors.

SATELLITE 2023

From May 10 to 14, 55 high school sophomores, from 35 rural NC counties spent five days at NC State in the company of Caldwell Fellows who immersed them in the possibilities of secondary education in a closely mentored environment with a 3:1 counselor to student ratio. The 30 Counselors and camp organizers gained hands-on leadership experience through a year of planning and executing this ambitious volunteer effort. Our volunteer leadership model coupled with our corporate sponsors (BASF and IBM) and the generous contributions of Caldwell alumni and friends (thank you!) means that we maintain a camp that is financially accessible to all, at a cost to campers of only \$25. For 28 years, Caldwell Fellows have embodied the NC State land-grant mission, serving rural NC through SATELLITE.



Global Learning

It is a great privilege for Caldwell Fellows staff to accompany Fellows on journeys that for most of our students means the first stamp in their passport. May 19 - June 2, Janice and Chester will guide 14 Fellows for a week across Portugal and a week across Spain walking the Camino Portugues from Vigo to Santiago de Compostela. This will be our second Caldwell Camino pilgrimage. Janice accompanied a group across the Spain route of the Camino in 2016 and looks forward to sharing the power of pilgrimage with a new group of Fellows.

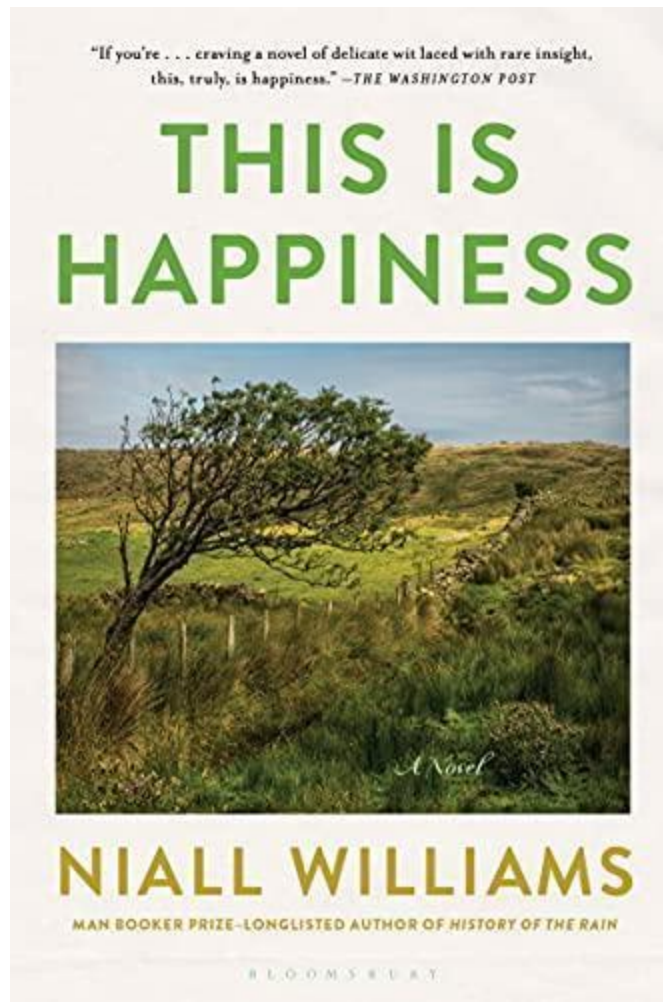


Congrats to the Class of 2023 and new Forever Club Members

The 55th class of Fellows, the Class of 2023, were celebrated with a family breakfast at the Park Alumni Center on graduation weekend. This year we also celebrate members of the Class of 1973, who mark their 50th graduation year with entrance into the Forever Club. What a treat to have our graduation breakfast include Rodney Swink from the class of 1973. The Class of 1973 Fellows alumni are:

- Rodney Swink
- Joseph Fox
- James Thiem
- John McLendon
- Celeste Plassman
- William Burrell

As our graduates enter their next life chapters, they are dispersing across the country and the world for new jobs, graduate school, and service ventures. A post-graduation commitment to service is a strong reflection of our servant-leadership mission, a challenge that alumni have taken upon themselves across the years. This year two of our Class of 2023 Fellows have commitments to the College Advising Corps: Sam Macy and Brianna Diaz. Sam and Brianna will be serving students in rural NC while their classmate, Kourosh Salamati, will be moving across the globe to the island country of Vanuatu as a Peace Corps volunteer.



2023 Caldwell Summer Reading Group

For many of us a mainstay of summer is getting lost in a novel that transports us to other spaces and becomes a vehicle for thoughtful reflection. A cadre of current Fellows have taken on a summer reading challenge and you are invited to join us. There will be one on-campus meeting in mid July (working date is Wednesday, July 12) to discuss the summer reading. You can join us in person (for those in the area) or virtually from wherever you are. Even if you cannot join the discussion, you may enjoy knowing that you are sharing a common reading experience with others. An online discussion board in July will also provide a place for shared reflection.

Our reading is by Irish writer, Niall Williams, **This is Happiness**. While not short (head's up, it's 400 pages), this novel is beautifully written and invites us to reflect on the intriguing and relevant topic - *what does it mean to 'be happy'?* What are our expectations for happiness and how do our expectations contribute to our mental well-being?

More details will come in the June newsletter about place and time for our July discussion, as well as a Zoom link.



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