

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP NEWSLETTER

EDITED BY KALI PITTS

"Dragonslayers" Spend Term in the Woods

This year eleven lucky students received the opportunity to spend forty-seven days on an Outdoor Leader Course offered through the North Carolina Outward Bound School (NCOBS). After two days in the classroom with Ed Raiola, the students said goodbye to friends and family and began Term I with Pisgah National Forest as their classroom.

The students, who named themselves the "Dragonslayers," hiked to Grandfather Mountain, Table Rock, Mount Mitchell, and through the Linville Gorge on their various expeditions. They also spent five days

learning whitewater canoeing skills on the French Broad and Tuckaseegee Rivers, as well as five days of rock climbing that culminated in a multi-pitch to the summit of Table Rock.

While at Table Rock, the students also trained for nine days with instructors to receive their Wilderness First Responder and CPR certifications.

The "Dragonslayers" were also excited to meet and



L to R: Melissa McLamb, Kali Pitts, Kat Coker, Brendan Shaughnessy, Pat Arrico, Katie George, Cory Artrip, Caleb Mende, John Baugh, Zoe Jimenez, and Johnathon Bland...DRAGONSLAYERS!

learn from Warren Wilson alumni Lindsay Martin and Eli Helbert. Lindsay served as their course instructor and Eli trained them for their Wilderness First Responder certification.

Green Race Draws Big Crowd



OC-1 Champ Wes Gentry paddling over Gorilla, one of the nine Class 5+ rapids on the 1/2 mile stretch known as the Green River Narrows

The first Saturday of November is a day marked on the calendars of many paddlers and enthusiasts as the biggest race of the year. Hundreds of eager faces hike two miles into the Green River Gorge to watch the race every year, and this year was no exception.

With 140 competitors this year, including 21 women, the race showcased the skills of many talented kayakers

and canoeists. The highlight of this year's race was the first-ever competitor in the OC-1 category, open canoe. Eli Helbert has been the sole competitor and subsequently won every year in the OC-1 category, but this year NCOBS instructor Wes Gentry challenged Eli's title. Because of Eli's disqualification for swimming a rapid without his boat, Wes took the title of 2009 OC-1 Champion.

Students Gain Experience, Reach Out

Outdoor Leadership is the epitome of experiential learning, so what better way to learn the ropes than through experience? This semester has kept students busy creating workshops, facilitating groups, and reaching out to the greater community.

The ODL 315 Group Process class spent several weeks as a group creating a workshop entitled

“Communication: It’s A Game!” which focused on building communication skills among student crew supervisors.

They also participated in a service trip to the Black Mountain Community Garden and to Brother Wolf Animal Shelter to give back to the community.

The ODL 215 Initiatives class spent a day with sixty freshman students from the Buncombe County Early

College through AB Tech facilitating various games and trust-building activities. They created their own lesson plans for the day and were responsible for the safety and enjoyment of their groups.

ENS 116 Environmental Education spent an afternoon potting plants with senior citizens in the area.

Jennifer Pharr Davis of AT Fame Visits WWC

On November 19th, world-famous Appalachian Trail Women’s speed record holder Jennifer Pharr Davis made a guest appearance on Warren Wilson campus, spending an afternoon hiking with a group of women that came out to hear her speak.

Davis completed the 2,175-mile trail in 57 days, 8 hours and 35 minutes, 30 whole days sooner than any other woman. Only 4 men hold faster speed records than hers. She also holds the record for most miles hiked in one day on the Appalachian Trail at 64.8

miles on her second to last day on the trail.

Davis’ husband Brew and father Yorke assisted her in her journey, meeting her at trail crossings and campsites with food and shelter and offering her support.

Toward the end of her journey, Davis met up with some encouraging trail company, including 14-time AT through-hiker Warren Doyle, a professor at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, and David

Horton, a professor at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., a former AT record holder (currently has third fastest time) and current Pacific Crest Trail record holder.

Davis made a strong and lasting impact on the women she met at WWC and has encouraged us all to strive toward our goals.

