Adventure is not in the guidebook... Beauty is not on the map...

Outdoor Pursuits

Spring 2015 Newsletter

Outdoor Pursuits
Student Life Center
1000 Rim Drive
Durango, CO 81301
970-247-7293
www.fortlewis.edu/outdoor-pursuits

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm
Climbing Wall Hours
Monday - Thursday
11am - 1pm & 4:30pm - 10pm
Friday
11am - 1pm & 4:30pm - 8pm
Boating Report

Lament of Lost Souls

The San Juan Mountains are looking quite summer-like. The snow is dwindling, and the mountains appear to look as they should in June...remember how warm and dry and sunny it was in winter? One in which we enjoyed bike rides, trail runs in shorts and got grumpy about the lack of snow and the so-so skiing? As sad as it may seem, this appears to be the new norm, the winters of the future, where the snow does not come as often and melts off quickly. At this point in the year, we need to think about how it is impacting the rivers and creeks which we are used to running; the waterfalls we scout to see when they are safe to drop; and trips we dream up as we pour over maps.

Unfortunately, as we head into this river season, we need to begin to accept that this year is the new reality in the West. Our home river, the Rio de las Animas Perdidas, the “river of lost souls,” may be lost to us as we know it. The soul of the river, its flow, snow-melt fed high water, cold, powerful, wonderful in its ability to sustain our region and our desires, is fading. The hope of a spring run-off of epic proportions replaced by the grim fact that we may have seen the high water peak of 2015 - the new norm.

Because I want to go boating, am ready to run big rapids, be intimidated by haystack waves, barely sneak around thunderous holes. I am not satisfied with rock-dodging down a trickle of a river. I want the soul of this river back, this year, every year.

As we think about this new reality, may we begin to not look to the world to find someone to blame, but begin to focus on our part in this – my role in this? Ask ourselves the hard questions: Do I want the Animas to stay this way? What have I done to add to the problem? Do I drive around too much, burning fossil fuels in search of adventure? Do I consume too much? Do I really need to have the newest smartphone? Can I change my behavior? What is it going to take?

Because if we don’t heed the wisdom of that most beloved character, the Lorax, that one word that he left us with, our river and the joy that it has brought will be no more......

Unless.
Tom Whalen, OP Assistant Coordinator

Sea Kayaking in Panama
Spring Break 2015

As soon as my paddle touched the warm Pacific waters of Panama I knew that I was home, at least for the next eight days. This wonderful feeling was brought to me by the opportunities that Outdoor Pursuits presented to me and the rest of the participants on the sea kayaking adventure to Panama.

Throughout the journey, not only did I get sunburned but I also gained a huge respect for different cultures that call Panama home. We spent day after day waking up to the peaceful sounds of enormous waves crashing, shortly followed by the most amazing tropical sunrise. Each day we packed our camping gear into our sixteen-foot kayaks and continued north up the coast of Panama on a self supported kayak journey. Many times, we would be accompanied by devil stingrays that would swim by us as we paddle onward. Often times we would only kayak 4 to 5 hours before we would make the always interesting surf landing into camp. Often arriving to camp around lunchtime, we would spend the afternoon exploring. Some afternoons I would lay out in the sun and just relax while other afternoons were full of playing frisbee and surfing in pack rafts.

One day we paddled to the remote islands called the Cimerones. At one island, we jumped out of our kayaks and donned snorkeling gear. The water was full of puffer fish, triggerfish, and coral. The fish would swim right next me as if I were a friend. As the days continued to pass, the sunsets and sunrises melded into each other, separated only by dreams of what the next day would bring. Outdoor Pursuits sure does know how to throw the best spring break that any Fort Lewis College student could ever dream.

By Davis Hoyt
**Graduating Seniors**

**Delaney Davis**
Major: Art Major; with a minor in Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
Outdoor Passions: Hiking, Snowboarding, Scuba Diving, Paragliding
Future Plans: Recording another CD, Booking a tour, and traveling the world with music.
Must see/do in life: See as much of the world as possible; and sing my songs atop a mountain.

**Francis Liaw**
Major: Adventure Education
Outdoor Passions: Backpacking, White-water Rafting, Backcountry Snowboarding
Future Plans: Teton Science School Field Instructor in Jackson, WY and then a NOLS semester in New Zealand
Must see/do in life: Fall in love with life!

**Pete Anderson**
Major: Geology
Outdoor Passions: Backcountry skiing/Ski Mountaineering, Mountain Biking, Climbing, River Running
Future Plans: Looking for a geology job and graduate school, eventually.
Must see/do in life: Travel to Antarctica, Live/work in foreign country.

---

**Backcountry Cookin’**

**Pineapple - Ginger Rice**

Prepare this backpacking recipe as a side or add dehydrated ham to make a main dish.

**Servings:** 2-3

**Ingredients:**

- 1 Cup Minute Rice (white or brown)
- ¼ Cup dehydrated pineapple, diced
- ¼ Cup dehydrated ham pieces
- 1 small ham bouillon cube
- 1 Tbsp dehydrated green onions
- 1 Tbsp Butter Buds
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp dehydrated ginger pieces

**At Home:**

Place rice in zip-lock bag. Put pineapple, Butter Buds, green onions, ginger pieces and salt in a small bag and ham in another. Enclose small bags in rice bag.

**On the Trail:**

Add ham pieces to 1 cup of water and bring to a boil. Stir in rice and everything else. Cover, remove from heat, and let sit 15 minutes.
Jared Nilsson
Major: Philosophy
Outdoor Passions: Climbing, Boating, Chillin'
Future Plans: Move to Hawaii to work in a Wilderness Therapy program.

Miranda Lanning
Major: Elementary Education
Outdoor Passions: Backpacking and Rock Climbing
Future Plans: Teach middle school Science in North Carolina. Then after the loans are paid off move to South Africa and help save wild lions!
Must see/do in life: I am going to try to spread passion and purpose to the people I interact with. I also hope to experience as many different cultures as possible and learn from them.

Devin Wilkinson
Major: Psychology, with a minor in Adventure Education.
Outdoor Passions: Hiking, Backpacking, Skiing, and just being outside in general.
Future Plans: Grad School. For now, I’d like to spend my time outdoors as often as possible. For the summer, I will be leading trips for high school students with Adventure Treks. I am pursuing internships for the winter with other outdoor-related places or I’ll travel to New Zealand... or South America... or maybe even Iceland.
Must see/do in life: See the Northern Lights; Hear whales sing to one another underwater; Sky Dive; Hug a redwood; Live in the mountains by a lake with my dog; be happy.

Intern’s Corner
“I am not what has happened to me. I am what I choose to become.”
-Carl Jung

I can’t believe it’s already April! It’s hard to wrap my head around the fact that my time as the Outdoor Pursuits intern is almost over. This year has been a crazy fun adventure filled with lots of ups and downs and I want to thank you for all of the good (and the few not so good) times! This experience would not have been the same without the Outdoor Pursuits staff or the awesome students. I’ve learned and taught, loved and laughed, and lost and cried with you. I’ve had triumphs and defeats. Most of all, because of you, I’ve been inspired to become.

One of the biggest lessons I’ve learned is that things aren’t always going to turn out how you expect them to and that whatever happens, it does not define who you are. We can all choose who we want to become. I hope that you all continue getting after it and living your dreams, as you have inspired me to do!

I’m headed back east to attend grad school at the University of Tennessee and start a graduate assistantship with University of Tennessee Outdoor Program. I’m hoping this next year turns out to be just as rad as my year at Fort Lewis has been. Another thanks to all of you for the memories!

On to the next adventure y’all!
Lisa Ivester, OP Intern
Photo Gallery

- Avalanche Clinic
- Ice Climbing-Ouray
- Panama Sea Kayaking
- San Juan Hut Trip
- Backcountry Yoga Weekend
- SOL Training

OP Summer Hours
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
11am - 2pm
Beginning May 12th