

Dear Members of the Bowdoin Community,

The past year at the Bowdoin Outing Club (BOC) began with another successful BOC Orientation Trip Program for the incoming class of 2020. Three-hundred and seventy-eight first-years participated on forty-one trips led by one-hundred-seven upper-class student leaders. Over 250 pounds of Cabot Extra Sharp cheese was consumed during the four-day trips, helping to support Vermont dairy farmers!

The fall semester was filled to overflowing with a vast array of BOC offerings. These included whitewater raft trips, beginner whitewater kayak classes, and backpacking trips on the Appalachian Trail throughout Maine. In addition, there were rock climbing trips at Camden, ME and Sundown Ledge off the Kancamangus Highway, innumerable day hikes, stand up paddle boarding (SUP) trips, flatwater canoeing day trips and overnights, surfing, and sunrise beach hikes. The fall semester ended with the Schwartz Outdoor Leadership Center hosting the Desserts in December program with the Student Center for Multicultural Life, at which the Outing Club was awarded the top honors in the ginger bread house contest.

Anna Bastidas (Hamilton '13) joined the BOC staff in August, stepping into the gaping hole left by the departure of Sarah Johnson (Bowdoin '13). [After spending the winter in Bozeman, Wyoming brushing up on her telemark skiing technique and floating down the Grand Canyon, SJ performed exceptionally well on her National Outdoor Leadership School River Instructor Course in April/May and has been teaching NOLS courses all summer.] Anna has been an excellent addition to the organization, and has been instrumental in pushing forward many of the inclusivity initiatives we have initiated at the BOC in the past three years. Along with Stephanie Rendall, interim director of the Women's Resource Center (WRC), Anna oversaw a robust series of Wild Wilderness Women events, including a Katahdin weekend trip led by Kate Berkley '18, a telemark ski day for twenty-four students and staff, an evening at the climbing wall, a leather working class, a kayaking pool session, and archery. The WRC/BOC partnership was launched with Melissa Quimby (Bowdoin '91), when she was the director of the WRC, and continues to be a wonderful opportunity to engage Bowdoin women in the activities offered on and off campus by the BOC. Anna also committed herself to developing the whitewater side of her paddling personality (she raced on the war canoe team at Hamilton), and became a familiar sight guiding a raft on BOC whitewater outings.

We continue to explore options to further develop the welcoming, inclusive and diverse environment that we envision for the BOC. In February 2017, the BOC hosted Perry Cohen of the Venture Out Project, who met with BOC staff and student leaders to discuss transgender students in the outdoors, and then met with Bowdoin Queer Straight Alliance (BQSA) leaders at 24 College Street. Bringing our experience to the greater community, Anna and former BOC Assistant Director Devin Farkas (Hamilton '10) gave a presentation on inclusivity in college outdoor programs at the Association of Experiential Education northeast regional conference in October.

This year's Out of the Zone Leadership Training (OZ LT) was the subject of a feature article in **Bowdoin** magazine, with Octavio Orozco Ibarra (Bowdoin'20) on the cover. The article gave an account of our winter trip in January to the BOC Cabin in Monson, and included beautiful

images from the trip. We had sixteen students in this OZ cohort, and we are excited to welcome them to the leadership crew at the BOC. The OZ semester culminated with a joint canoe expedition down Flagstaff Lake and the Dead River with the Spring LT group. The group experienced warm sunshine on the lake, a cold, windy, and exciting day on the lake, a long portage around Long Falls, and then two days of running whitewater on the Dead River. It was a trip filled with learning experiences and adventure, and the learning curve was steep!

The Spring semester also included Beyond the Pines backpacking trips to the Cordillera Blanca in Peru, and Canyonlands National Park in Utah. Spring vacation trips included a ten-day southeastern whitewater kayak and raft trip, with sixteen students who were hoping for more spring-like conditions, managing to paddle for eight days on some challenging and fun rivers, and who are looking forward to doing it again next year! Anna Bastidas went to Guatemala with the McKeen Center trip to Safe Passages, and made it back only a day late with the last of her students! A day later, she and Adam took the OZ LT group up to the Maine Huts and Trails for a four day nordic ski trip between the Flagstaff and Grand Falls huts.

During February, the first annual BOC Snolympics was held. Competitive events included a three-legged snowshoe race, miniature bobsledding, human curling on the Quad, and a snowperson building competition, with over seventy-five students participating. In the final week of school, the first BARFF (Bowdoin Artistic Recreation Film Foundation) film festival was held at the Schwartz, promoted and produced by Jack Mitchell '17. A number of films were submitted by students, and received awards ranging from the esoteric to the bizarre; a good time was had by all!

The BOC continues to offer a remarkable range and quantity of quality outdoor programming on and off campus, introducing the current generation of Bowdoin students to the unique and wonderful opportunities available in the great state of Maine. We look forward to continuing that tradition in 2017-18.

Sincerely,

Michael Woodruff, Director