

in the spotlight:

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: THE OUTING CLUB

You can find them climbing the peaks of New Hampshire's Mount Monadnock, on whitewater rafting adventures on Massachusetts' Deerfield River, hiking Maine's Acadia National Park, bicycling on Martha's Vineyard...even kayaking in the Kneller Center pool. (I kid you not!)

Their motto? "Nature. Get some."

Who are they? Members of Clark's Outing Club, of course. Whether it be hiking, camping, climbing, backpacking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding, canoeing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, scaling rock gyms, stargazing, bicycling, or even apple picking—it's all about the outdoors, nature and having fun.

"The Outing Club's main mission is to get outdoors—to bring people on an urban campus into green spaces," explains Elizabeth Waste '07.

More than 500 Clarkies are getting in touch with nature through the student-run club, which sponsors a wide spectrum of outings and activities each year to promote outdoor education, skill sharing, and networking among members. The Outing Club offers something for everyone at Clark from on-campus marshmallow roasts, to local hikes that take just a few hours, to daylong trips and multiday adventures throughout



the greenest, wettest, roughest and highest points in New England. The best thing is: you needn't rival the physical acumen of Indiana Jones to take part. All are welcome, regardless of past experience or ability level.

The club has also hosted outdoor adventure films and slideshows, environmental conferences and presentations, and local waterway cleanups. Through Nature Connection, which Outing Club co-sponsors with Clark's Office of Student Leadership and Programming, a hike goes out just about every Sunday in the fall.

"It's really central to my happiness to get out into the outdoors," says Waste. "Getting outside and enjoying nature is a great way of just releasing stress."

Nora Oliver '10 says the club also takes advantage of green places right in Worcester—such as Broadmeadow Brook and Elm Park, which she dubs "urban wilderness."

"The good thing about Worcester," says Oliver, "is, even though it's a city, if you go five miles in any direction, you can find a more rural area."

Although both Waste and Oliver admit that it's sometimes harder to motivate people in the winter, the club doesn't let the New England weather put a chill on club activities. This past winter, the Outing Club sponsored activities such as indoor kayak-rolling clinics in the Clark pool, snowshoeing and winter backpacking, indoor rock climbing and sledding.

"I love cross country skiing, and winter camping," says Waste, referring to a recent Outing Club spring-break trip.

"Outing clubs are really an essential part of the college experience," Waste explains. "It's so great for me when I'm stressed to put the work aside and just get out for some fresh air."

"And I think it's really important, especially on an urban campus, to be able to meet and be with people who also share your love and passion for the outdoors," adds Oliver.

To learn more about the Outing Club visit www.clarku.edu/students/outingclub — Tammy Griffin-Kumpey M.S.P.C. '06

Art students create mural for the Lasry Center for Bioscience

Sixteen talented young artists, all students in art professor Elli Crocker's Drawing the Body class, have created a biology-inspired mural which will hang in the Cathy '83 and Marc '81 Lasry Center for Bioscience. The students each designed four 12-by-12-inch tiles that, when placed together, make up one large 8-by-8-foot square. These super-enlarged interior images of the human body depict red blood cells, white blood cells, brain neurons and skeletal muscle fiber. They were created on drafting film using colored pencils, paint, ink and magazine clippings and are mounted onto stretched canvas.

Biology Department Chair Susan Foster enlisted the help of the students after learning that last year's class worked on a commissioned mural for Worcester State Hospital.

"The students and I had far-reaching discussions about all aspects of working from the body as a conceptual source for our art," says Crocker. Few of her students were art majors, several were first-year students, and most had yet to take a painting course. The mural provided an opportunity for Crocker's students to work collaboratively on a community-centered project.



Student artists with the mural they created for the Lasry Biosciences Center

"We have a lot of wall space," said Foster of the new building, which opened in January 2005. Foster and her colleagues were delighted at the prospect of having colorful, student-created art for their building.

"We are thrilled by the art, and we'd like to see this kind of collaboration again and again," said Foster.

The students were equally excited and grateful for the opportunity. "We're so happy we could contribute to Clark," said Preethi Raj '07, the only biology major in the class.

Images of the mural can be found on the Web at www.clarku.edu/scientificart