

To the Families of Collin LaMore and Ellis Heyer,

I and my fellow 2014 OPP graduating class are the first generation of many who will not get an opportunity to meet Collin and Ellis. I was taking my very first Outdoor Pursuits Program class when Michael Strong informed us of the deaths of Collin and Ellis. Even though I was just being introduced to the community the sense of loss in my instructors and classmates was tangible and piercing. It was clear to me that the OPP had lost two members of its community who had a passion for the outdoors and had created a network of support and comradery with their peers.

The Heyer/ LaMore Leadership award is a celebration of those qualities in Collin and Ellis and it is my honor to have been chosen to receive it. Choosing to go with close friends in the outdoors is to celebrate life and nature to the fullest. Progressing through the Outdoor Pursuits Program it has been my pleasure to be able to spend time and go through tremendous personal growth in such a manner. It is often difficult to describe to people who are not involved in the OPP why I have come to feel so passionately about it. When you have nothing but what you can carry, when you are cold and hungry, when you have no electronic distractions, when you accomplish a common goal with a group of peers, when you reflect upon your day, when your toes are numb from cold, that is when you truly discover who you are. And for some reason we go through this cycle of struggles again and again in every OPP class we take. And in every class we discover a little more of who we truly are. But the real joy of going through all the obstacles that outdoor pursuits presents is doing it with a group of friends and solidifying those friendships through the shared act of discovering. There is no doubt that Collin and Ellis experienced growth personally and as friends through Outdoor Pursuits Program classes. I would like to thank you for choosing to honor their growth and spirit by the creation of this award.

Next year I will be moving on to a position at Duke University in their Outdoor Adventures department. I am looking forward to experiencing a new place with a whole new set of adventure possibilities. But mostly I am looking forward to continuing to work and grow in outdoor education. I want to keep facilitating the experiences in the outdoors that influenced me and others so greatly in my time at the U of O. Students such as Collin and Ellis, who clearly loved the outdoors and created deep friendships with their peers, are the reason that I am going on to work in the outdoor education field. I hope to continue to embody the spirit of the Heyer/ LaMore award in all of my future endeavors.

Respectfully,

Kristin Gloystein