

James Dick Profile

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By Teddy Jacobsen

LEXINGTON - The message “Enjoy college, it goes fast...” inscribed by James Dick in the entryway of the Outing Club barn welcomes all its visitors.

“I’m only here for a limited time, maybe take advantage of it,” Dick said.

James Dick is the Director of Outdoor Education at Washington and Lee University. He has expanded the outing department throughout his 19 years of work. He oversees the Outing Club, PE classes, the Appalachian Adventure pre-orientation backpacking trip, and many other outdoor activities.

Dick grew up in New Mexico. His days consisted of camping, climbing, and fishing. His dad worked for the Forest Service, so he said his love for the outdoors came naturally.

He moved to Lexington while he was working on his Ph.D. in outdoor recreation. He said the students keep him motivated after nearly two decades.

Lily Miggins directs the social media for the Outing Club. Dick’s passion is a big contributor to her positive experience in the club.

“He literally just wants to get people outside, and that’s what he cares about,” said Miggins.

Dick understands the stress and commitments students face during their time in college.

“Do the best you can to do one thing per year with the outing club, and you’ll not be sorry,” said Dick.

His favorite trip this year came during fall break. He floated down the James River with some students. He said the trip was especially fun because no one had any time constraints. Everyone could just relax and appreciate the nature around them.

Dick is a simple man at heart. He finds joy in the same activities that he enjoyed as a teenager, even after 24 years of marriage and three children.

“In my core values, what makes me happy and what I really like have not changed,” said Dick.