



Claudia Lawry
Simmons College
Discovering Dance

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

My name is Claudia Lawry, and I'm a sophomore History and English as a Second Language Education double major at Simmons College. I've lived most of my life in Bedford, Massachusetts, although I was born down the street at Brigham and Women's Hospital (Hometown pride!). As a proud native, I enjoy rooting for the Patriots in my spare time and exploring the city with my dear friends.

Why did you decide to select Simmons? What has your experience been like as a COF student?

I visited Simmons on a recommendation from my teachers and fell in love from the day I set foot on the quad. I loved the program, the friendly people and, of course, Boston. Truthfully, dance was not a factor in my decision, as I had never danced before college. I had wanted to try dancing in high school, but my family and I couldn't afford classes. Even if we could, I was afraid to step out of my comfort zone and make a fool of myself in front of other people. I discovered the Colleges of the Fenway Dance Project at the Connections Carnival (club fair) during my first week at school, and decided to take the plunge and register for a ballet class. I thought to myself, "If I don't take this risk now, then I never will."

Describe your involvement in the COF Dance Project?

For a long time, I had no idea what I was doing - I barely knew how to wear ballet slippers, never mind how to leap or point my toes. Even still, everyone was so welcoming, patient, and encouraging. That's when I decided that joining the Dance Project was the best decision I could have made. My fellow dancers are such a warm and diverse group of people that I never would have met otherwise. Also, they are just plain talented and fun! I've also caught the "dancing bug". One dance class has now become three, and I'm currently cross-registered in my second academic dance class this year! Being able to dance through the COF has brought me closer to

my amazing dance "family" (including my current roommate), and given me the chance to be a part of a world that I never would have known otherwise.