



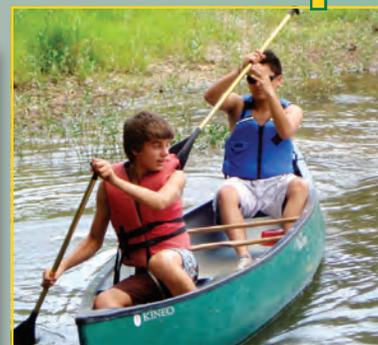
## Happenings from Horizons



March 2010  
Volume 28, No. 1

# Camp expands international partnerships

We look forward to welcoming a greater number of international campers this summer as a result of some unique international partnerships. Campin Rincon Grande, a summer camp in Venezuela, and Camp Horizons started an exchange program 20 years ago to bring Venezuelan campers to the United States. Camp Horizons sent a group of campers to Campin Rincon Grande in the 1990s, and we have welcomed many Venezuelan campers over the years. We are making a special effort to bring a group from Campin Rincon Grande this summer to celebrate our 20th year of working together. We also are working with former staff member Iamara Araujo (1990, 1994) in Brazil and former camper Maria Bestard (1994) in Spain to bring campers from their respective countries this summer. Additionally, one of our international staffing placement companies, Camp America, has begun to recruit campers from the United Kingdom for the first time, so that will open up more international camper opportunities. At Camp Horizons, "We are many, we are one!"



## Camp Horizons hosts Operation Purple for military children

Camp Horizons is thrilled to host an *Operation Purple* camp this summer! *Operation Purple* camps are free to military children with a parent in the deployment cycle (pre-deployment, deployment or post-deployment) in the last 12 months, through the National Military Family Association with support from the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation. The theme is "Kids Serve Too!"

We will have 50 campers, ages 6-12, for the week of Aug. 15-21. *OP* camp will incorporate many of our traditional camp activities, and will include military-themed events such as a "Basic Training" obstacle course; a military speaker and a military theme day; flag raising/lowering every day; and a Wall of Honor to showcase photos and notes about the campers' parents' service. Campers will eat MREs (meals ready to eat) for lunch one day, make scrap-

books to send to their deployed parent, and make an *OP* quilt. Horizons will work with a local military liaison, and a mental health consultant will be on site during camp.

*OP* is open to families from the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps, the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, and National Guard and Reserve units. **Campers must register at [www.militaryfamily.org](http://www.militaryfamily.org), not through the Camp Horizons web site.** Registration opens March 15.

*OP* camps are operating this summer in 67 US locations, and in Germany and Guam. Camp Horizons is one of two Virginia camps selected to participate. The program was started in response to the effect that eight years of war have had on military families.

**News  
Flash!**

**Sibling Discount Still Available!** Make Camp Horizons a family affair and get \$50 off each tuition for two or more siblings attending camp.

**Alumni Discount!** Alumni, thinking of sending your child to camp? Call our office for information about our special Alumni Discount.

**Camp HORIZONS**

1-800-729-9230  
[www.CampHorizonsVa.com](http://www.CampHorizonsVa.com)

# The Director's Corner



Wow. . . what a winter it's been! The snow is finally receding a bit, trees are beginning to bud, a few daffodils are peeking through the dirt, days are getting longer and warmer, and our thoughts are definitely turning to summer fun! We're busy hiring staff for summer 2010 and fine-tuning programs to make the Horizons experience even better. As we welcome returning staff members back and invite new ones to join our staff, I'm amazed at the talent, enthusiasm and dedication of our staff members. They truly are the backbone of our summer camp program!

Camp Horizons continues its commitment to conservation and use of alternative energy. We feel it's important to do all we can to minimize our impact on the environment, reduce our carbon footprint and make the world a healthier, cleaner place for all to live. To augment our alternative energy program that includes solar electricity, biodiesel fuel for our camp vehicles and use of electric golf carts throughout camp, our wind turbine has been turning steadily, generating electricity for our camp facility. This summer we'll offer a new "green" activity. Campers will build solar powered cars, try outdoor cooking using solar energy, enjoy the harvest of our camp garden, and learn more about ways to protect the environment.

Camp Horizons has already started some spring cleaning, including tearing down the building that sat on the hill by Lake Philippa. The new, wide-open view is fantastic, and the materials from the building will be reused for other camp construction projects.

Have a great school year, and we look forward to welcoming you back to camp!

**John Hall**  
*"Life is for Living"*

# 2010 staff begins to take shape!

Even though there are still patches of snow on the ground here at Camp Horizons, making summer look eons away, we're busy selecting our fantastic staff for 2010. While the hiring process is not yet complete, we're thrilled with the enthusiastic, talented staff members who already have committed to joining us for our 28<sup>th</sup> season of summer fun!

So far, our 2010 staff comes from five different countries – Argentina, England, Northern Ireland, New Zealand and the United States, and we anticipate many more countries will be represented. This year's staff has plenty of experience, as 24 of the 34 staff so far are returning staff, who provide the depth, experience and expertise to be fantastic mentors to our first-year counselors.

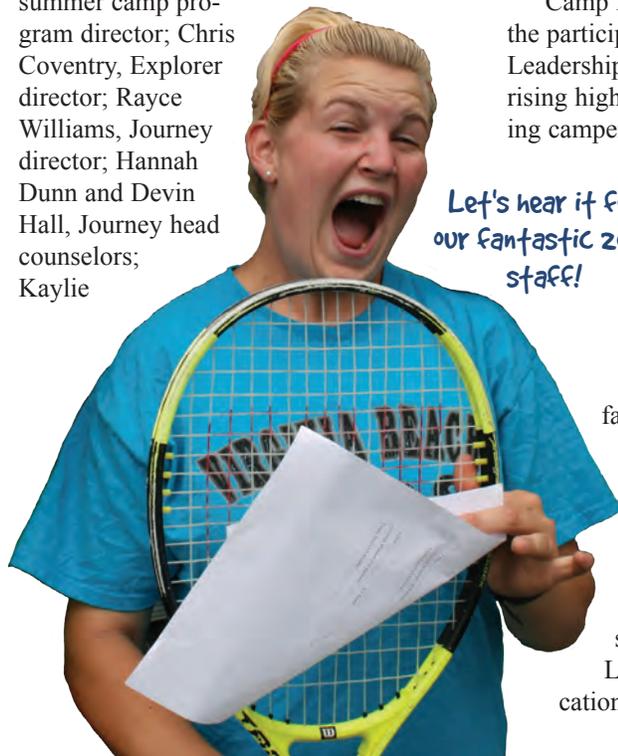
Support staff include Lori Ostrem, summer camp program director; Chris Coventry, Explorer director; Rayce Williams, Journey director; Hannah Dunn and Devin Hall, Journey head counselors; Kaylie

Metcalf and Bill Wides, Explorer head counselors; Graham Hollingdale, activities coordinator; Catherine Jones, visual arts lead; Jonathan Galbraith, performing arts lead; Kristine Mc Kerney, aquatics lead; and Anna Buchanan, equestrian director. Rayce, who is new to Camp Horizons, has three years experience in the summer camp industry.

Returning staff include Jake Bogdonoff, Gustavo Calvi, Grace Corapi, Giulian Garruba, Jessi Gower, Claire Grove, Liz Heilbronner, Chris Jett, Lucy Mathews, Josh Mitri, Jenny Nagy, David Snowdon and Jenny Walker.

First-year staff include Olivia Clarke, Marianne Hawes, Esme Hinton, Ali Holmes, Stacey Kavanaugh, Alice Latham, Emily Middleton, Tom Morris and Adam Whitehall.

Camp Horizons is pleased to announce the participants in our 2010 Horizons Leadership program. Horizons Leaders are rising high school seniors who are returning campers. The Horizons Leadership program is designed to give these young people the training, leadership skills, responsibility and self-confidence they need to excel in all aspects of their lives. Campers who are registered so far in the Horizons Leadership program are Luke Dahill, Sam Fine, Anna Gregoriou, Xavier Knox, Gina Lorenzetti, Ben McGhee, Natalie Reneau, DJ Thomas and Kayla Van Scoy. There are still a few spaces available in the Horizons Leadership program, and applications are welcome.



## Program change

We have decided not to run our Adventure program this year. Based on feedback from parents and campers, we feel we can better serve the expectations of our camper families by focusing more on our Explorer program, which offers similar experiences. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Kim Betts.

# Horizons Family Album: Jon Meador



When it came to looking for a job, Jon Meador was balancing two things: a love of cooking and a love of the mountains. A year ago June, Jon found that perfect balance when he was offered a job as Sous Chef at Camp Horizons. He found the job posted on the Internet, talked with Executive Chef Steve Herrmann and within an hour was in his car heading for an interview.

Admittedly, he was a bit hesitant at first. After a stint

at Virginia Tech, Jon graduated from the Culinary Institute in Charleston, S.C., and was accustomed to the urban sophistication of Charleston – a “mecca of the food and hospitality industry.”

Stereotypic visions of summer camp fare – chicken nuggets and French fries – came to mind. . . until he arrived. What he found was beautiful scenery, a welcoming staff and an emphasis on healthy menus that include fresh produce from the camp garden. These and the chance to work as second in command to Herrmann and learn from his more than 20 years of experience in the food service business sealed the deal. Jon accepted the job and immediately launched into the hectic pace of summer camp that seemed overwhelming at first but soon settled into its own frenetic rhythm.

The camp menu is “relatively easy prep,” Jon said, although

he was surprised at the variety and quality of the meals, particularly the fresh salad bar and a commitment to use locally produced foods when possible. During the non-summer seasons, Jon works with Outdoor Learning Center groups and handles catering for Mountain Valley Meeting and Retreat Center. “Mountain Valley is really taking it up a notch when it comes to presentation and detail,” Jon said. With that fine dining atmosphere and customized menus, it can take as long to prepare, plate and serve a meal for 12 as it did to prepare dinner for hundreds of campers. But for Jon, it’s all part of a job that continually sharpens his cooking, planning, ordering and management skills.

And as he looks to his first anniversary at Camp Horizons, he smiles at the changes he’s undergone. For one, he’s switched from being a night owl to a morning person. He’s also learned more in a year than he imaged possible. “Steve’s a wealth of knowledge,” Jon said. “He’s also the most laid-back boss I’ve ever had.”

Jon sums up his job easily: “My job is to make sure no one knows Steve is not in the kitchen.” But while he oversees the entire kitchen operation when Steve isn’t there, he’s also quick to say he’s learned so much from Camp Horizons kitchen veterans Diane Tinnell, Ingrid Maki and Laura Hiatt.

“I really love what I’m doing,” Jon admits. An always changing atmosphere, added responsibilities of ordering supplies and planning menus, and juggling the demands of a bustling camp kitchen with the finesse of preparing a gourmet dinner for Mountain Valley clients are all part of a day’s work for Jon.

As he prepares for the spring OLC season, followed by the start of the summer camp season, Jon finds himself remembering the kids he met last year, and anticipating the contagious energy, enthusiasm and laughter that a camp full of children brings. “I’m really looking forward to seeing the kids again.”

## Camp gets Safety 1st designation for 3rd year

Camp Horizons is one of 64 camps nationwide and one of only four camps in Virginia to receive the Safety 1<sup>st</sup> designation for 2009 from Markel Insurance Co. Markel specializes in insurance for, among other things, camps, childcare centers and youth recreation centers. This is the third consecutive year that Camp Horizons has received this designation.

The Safety 1<sup>st</sup> program recognizes policyholders who have shown an exceptional commitment to the safety of their employees and customers.

Michael Swain, senior loss control specialist at Markel, stated, “Camps and clubs must meet stringent criteria to qualify for the Safety 1<sup>st</sup> designation.

They must have a proven safety record for at least three consecutive years, undergo formal assessments and inspections, and participate in continuing education and certification programs. These facilities deserve to be recognized for keeping safety a top priority.”

“We’re thrilled to have received this designation three years in a row,” said John Hall, owner and camp director. “It’s evidence of our commitment to providing children with exciting, challenging and fun summer camp experiences in a safe and secure environment.”



## Open Houses introduce new families to camp

Know someone's who is interested in coming to Camp Horizons? Tell them about our Open Houses. They are the perfect opportunity for families to meet camp staff, tour our great facilities and get more information about the many programs we offer.

Upcoming open houses are Saturday, April 10, and Sunday, April 11, and Saturday, May 1, and Sunday May 2. All Open Houses start at 1 p.m., rain or shine, and include a slide show and walking tour of camp. Be sure to wear sturdy comfortable shoes, bundle up if it's chilly and allow about two hours for the visit.

Call our office or e-mail us for more information or to reserve your spot at one of our upcoming Open Houses.

# Alumni News, Views and Happenings

## 1994

**Rie Hashimoto Bailey (1994)** lives in Washington state with husband Brent and children Tamika, Joel, Maia and Joseph. Rie's jewelry and calligraphy are featured in galleries in Vancouver, Wash., and Portland, Ore.



The Bailey family

## 1996



**Markus Erickson Amanto (1994-1996)** sends this photo of him, wife Filippa and daughter Aminda in Sweden.

## 1999

**Pavel Nosek (1996, 1997, 1999)** and wife Zusana sent this holiday card of their son, Pavel, Jr.



## 2000

**Kim Betts and John Hall** caught up with **Paul Whitaker (1987 summer,**

**2000s full-time)** in Denver in February. Paul is the vice president of European, Asian and Latin Operations for *Up With People*.

**Aimee Norman Vandemark (1996, 1999, 2000)** and husband Aaron welcomed baby Henry in November in North Carolina.

## 2002

**Lynette Burgess Law (2001-2002)** has a 22 month-old daughter, Hayley, and works in radiology in North Canterbury, New Zealand.

## 2003

**Jessica King (1999, 2003)** is the web-master for Southeast Missouri Hospital.

## 2004



**David Hilton (2000, 2001, 2003, 2004)** is a part-time volunteer policeman or Special Constable in England.

## 2005

**Pierre Court (2005)** graduated from University of Derby with a degree in Psychology and Counseling and works as a student counselor/behavior support officer in England.



## 2006

**Shannon McCoolle (2004-2006)** writes, "Being a part of camp has strongly

influenced me and now I'm starting my Bachelor of Education degree. I've also been working with Big Brothers Big Sisters here in Australia."

## 2008

**Jen Thomas (2008)** hosted a Horizons Reunion in December in England with **Devin Hall (2007-2009)**, **Kristine McNerney (2008-2009)**, **Liz Heilbronner (2008-2009)** and **Marshall Tuck (2009)**.

**David Snowdon (2005, 2008)** and **Claire Grove** are traveling the world before returning to camp this summer. So far they have been to Tokyo, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Perth and Sydney.

## Staff

**Kim and Kenny Betts and Lori Ostrem** attended the Camp America Staff Fair in London in January. While there they caught up with **Tara Ascik (2000-2003)**, **Polat Ali (2002)**, **Gemma Wilkes (2003-2004)**, **Antony Nichola and Aimee Woodill Payne (2001-2004)**, **Davina Blake-Lawson Mackenzie and Tim Mackenzie (2003)**, **Graham Hollingdale and Chris Coventry (2007-2009)**, **Luke Harmer (2005-2007)**, **Carolyn Harvey (2005-2007, 2009)**, **Ralph Demeger (2006-2007, 2009)** and **Jonathan Galbraith (2008-2009)**.



Pictured are **Chris Coventry (2007-2009)**, **Carolyn Harvey (2005-2007, 2009)**, **Ralph Demeger (2006-2007, 2009)**, **Jonathan Galbraith (2008-2009)**, **Graham Hollingdale (2007-2009)**, **Lori Ostrem**, and **Kenny and Kim Betts**.

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