



# Happenings from Camp Horizons



December 2009  
Volume 27, No. 4

## *Fall reunion features lots of activities and Halloween fun*

Nineteen campers and 12 staff members joined us for the Fall Reunion, held Oct. 24-26 at camp. Staff included Anna Buchanan, Kristine Mc Nerney, Liz Heilbronner, Anne Frazier Elliott, Megan Finnerty, Mike Gregerson, Gustavo Calvi, Jake Bogdonoff, Devin Hall, Ethan Zook, David Beaumont and Bill Wides.

Campers joining us for the fall reunion were Kate Baney, Casey Christoph, Erin Christoph, Sophia Herman, Sam Hodge, Lisa Kolgan, Katya Maslova, Brenna Singer, Ally

Slayton, Emma Slayton, Marta Soechting, Erin Walsh, Madison Edmunds, Marshall Edmunds, Gabe Eshleman, Logan Leake, Thomas Russell, Jerod Singer and Joseph Topel.

On Friday night we watched a slide show with pictures from the summer, and campers caught up with friends around the campfire. Saturday was filled with activities – horseback riding, sports, mountain biking, crafts, hiking, wagon ride and time for homework before carving pumpkins.

Saturday evening was the Halloween Extravaganza! We had a talent show, spooky snacks, Halloween games and a dance. Prizes for best-carved pumpkin went to Jerod Singer, Lisa Kolgan and, for staff, David Beaumont. Prizes for best costumes went to Thomas Russell as GI Joe, Ally Slayton

as a witch, Marta Soechting for scariest costume, and, for staff, Megan Finnerty as a dark angel.

We wrapped up the weekend with high ropes before our Closing Circle. Thanks to all of our staff members and campers for a fantastic weekend!



## **NEW CAMPERS!** Visit camp during our Open Houses

New to Camp Horizons? Would you like to visit camp, check out our great facilities and meet some of our talented staff before summer? If so, join us for one of our Open Houses, where you'll get a chance to meet our staff, check out the cabins and other facilities and get a feel for camp.

All Open Houses start at 1 p.m., rain or shine, and include a slide show, refreshments and a walking tour of camp. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes, bundle up if it's chilly and allow about two hours for your visit.

Please call our office during business hours, toll free: 1-800-729-9230, if you'd like to attend one of our Open Houses.

### **Open House Dates**

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Saturday, Feb. 6</b>   | <b>Sunday, Feb. 7</b>    |
| <b>Monday, Feb. 15</b>    | <b>– President's Day</b> |
| <b>Saturday, March 6</b>  | <b>Sunday, March 7</b>   |
| <b>Saturday, April 10</b> | <b>Sunday, April 11</b>  |
| <b>Saturday, May 1</b>    | <b>Sunday, May 2</b>     |

**Horizons Leadership Program – Remember to mail your application to camp by Jan. 1, 2010. Take advantage of our Early Bird Discount! Register by March 12, 2010 and save 5% off tuition. And don't forget our Sibling Discount: \$50 off each tuition for two or more siblings attending camp.**

Happy Holidays from all of us here at

2009

# Camp HORIZONS



## The Director's Corner



Season's greetings from Camp Horizons! We've hung wreaths on the doors and strung lights on trees, but our decorations can't compare with the six inches of sparkling, fluffy snow that blanketed camp during a recent snow-storm.

Even though it definitely looks like winter outside, our thoughts inside are turning to Camp Horizons 2010. We're thrilled to welcome back Lori Ostrem for next summer as she assumes new leadership responsibilities for camp. And we're excited to report that Anna Buchanan has received her new three-

year visa and, as our Equestrian Director, will continue to build the horseback program throughout the year as well as head the special Equestrian Camp and our summer horseback programs. Equestrian Camp, offered for the first time last summer, will be held again during the first and last week of the summer camp season.

Kim Betts continues as our director of camp administration, and, as she has for many years, will provide administrative services and tend to the countless details that are essential to making sure camp runs smoothly.

Our wind turbine is fully operational now, and is spinning non-stop with these cold winter winds. The turbine and the solar panels on Western Village generate electricity to power our camp golf carts. These alternative energy sources as well as our camp-wide recycling program and biodiesel fuel plant reflect our ongoing commitment to "going green," by using alternative fuels, conserving resources and protecting our environment. We're also exploring the possibility of building an

energerium at camp that will showcase alternative fuel technologies and serve as an educational resource for our campers, staff and area students.

As we enter our 28<sup>th</sup> season of summer fun, Camp Horizons is thrilled to welcome a second generation of campers. Former campers and staff are continuing the Horizons tradition by sending their own children to Camp Horizons! As a way of saying thanks to our alumni for your continued support of and enthusiasm for Camp Horizons, we're offering a special discount in honor of our 28<sup>th</sup> season to alumni who send their kids to camp. Please give us a call and ask for details about the alumni discount.

I hope your holiday season will be filled with friends, family, fun and anticipation for a fantastic 2010. Please stay in touch, and keep counting those days until the start of our 28<sup>th</sup> season!

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

# Horizons Family Album: Kenny Betts

While the counselors and support staff are the most visible employees during the Camp Horizons summer season, one person – Kenny Betts – plays a huge role in making sure camp functions smoothly. You may not always see him, but his work is essential to keeping camp going.

Kenny, as facility manager, handles the maze of behind-the-scenes details such as managing the housekeeping staff; managing transportation, including vehicle maintenance of the Camp Horizons fleet of buses, vans, cars, trailers, golf carts and Mules, scheduling drivers and coordinating pickup times; managing logistics for groups using the camp property; and maintaining the camp's water system and swimming pool. Add countless other jobs that are part of the everyday life at Camp Horizons, and you begin to get a sense of Kenny's daily schedule. He's the person driving the green Mule throughout camp property, checking on projects, directing his maintenance crew, coordinating the housekeeping staff and orchestrating other logistics involved with the many groups visiting Camp Horizons.

Ever changing, at times hectic, always different. But that suits Kenny just fine. "I do love my job," he says with a grin. "I like the fact that I get to be outside doing something different every day. I had a job sitting at a desk – I don't miss that at all."

He also likes the fact that Camp Horizons is a family affair. His wife, Kim, is the director of camp administration, and their two children, Brayden, 3 ½, and Brinley, almost 2, are the unofficial camp mascots. The two youngsters spend their summers at camp, cared for by a staff nanny who comes from a different country and gives the kids exposure to different cultures and customs. "What a great

place for the kids to be able to grow up," Kenny says.

His children's experiences mirror, to some extent, his own childhood. "I grew up in a state park" on New York's Long Island. His dad was the park's golf course superintendent, and Kenny spent his youth playing in the park, and later working as a grounds keeper for the golf course.

That upbringing drew him to the recreation field, and eventually he enrolled in the golf and sports turf management program at Mississippi State University. He later switched to sports communication, and after graduation worked in corporate marketing and ticket sales for professional ice hockey and arena football teams in Tupelo, Miss.

He and Kim were engaged then, and still trying to figure out where they wanted to settle. While he liked the sports communication field, he didn't like the pressure of corporate marketing or being tied to a desk and a phone. So when Kim was offered a full-time job in 2002 as the camp registrar, they decided to pursue it and move to Virginia. Kenny worked that first summer as the athletics lead. That fall he worked as Outdoor Learning Center staff, with the intention of soon finding another job in the Harrisonburg area. But when more opportunities kept arising at Camp Horizons, Kenny accepted them.



His job evolved to include handling vehicle maintenance, coordinating transportation, supervising maintenance projects and managing housekeeping. Eventually, he earned a title that reflected his responsibilities – facility manager, and has been doing the maintenance and logistics juggling act ever since.

The variety is to his liking, the camp setting is beautiful, the environment is perfect for his young family, and he and Kim enjoy working at the same place but having very distinct areas of responsibility. He also says it is great training for his "dream job" – being a facility manager for an arena or coliseum, preferably working in collegiate sports.

For many, the round-the-clock demands of the recreation field can be overwhelming. But Kenny, with his quick smile and easy-going attitude, has it figured out. "Working in recreation is not a job – it's a lifestyle."



***Join us for an afternoon of bowling  
at our Winter Reunion Feb. 28***

Beat the winter doldrums by catching up with your camp friends and staff members during our Winter Reunion! Camp Horizons will hold our 2010 Winter Reunion on Sunday, Feb. 28th, from 2-4 p.m. at Bowl America Fairfax, 9699 Lee Highway, Fairfax, Virginia. The cost is \$20 and includes shoe rental, bowling and a t-shirt. Please register by Feb. 19, either by calling our office at 1-800-729-9230 by registering on line at [www.CampHorizonsVA.com](http://www.CampHorizonsVA.com).

Look forward to seeing you there!

# Alumni News, Views and Happenings

## 1990s

**Camper Samantha Sissman (1989-1994)** works as an aide for an elected official in Arlington, Va.

## 2001

**Francie Iliff (camper 1980s/1990s, staff 1999-2001)** and **Eric Van Ostenbridge** were married Oct. 3 in Annapolis, Md.



## 2002

**Wendy Hawksworth Weber (2001-2002)** and **Helen Coles-Hennessy (2001-2002)** caught up in Harrisburg, Pa., recently.



**Dale Ross (2002)** is a firefighter/EMT going to school for a higher level EMT certification.

## 2004

**Sarah Recnitzer (2004)** finished an internship with the NCAA in Salem, Va. this summer and is now at the University of Michigan working on a master's degree in Higher Education Administration.

## 2007

**Tom Gaudin (2007)** and **Zoe Barnett** welcomed their son, **Blake Michael Steven Barnett-Gaudin**, born Nov. 6. He

weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces. The Gaudin family is living in New Zealand.



## 2009

**Szabi Barho** traveled across the United States after camp, from Philadelphia to San Francisco and back to Atlantic City. He writes, "This summer was the best of my life. I learned a lot of new things and it was full of fun."

**Chris Jett** is majoring in Theatre at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, and working as a lighting assistant.

**Roy Macias (2008-2009)** has been studying in Spain this fall. He created a video based on his experiences at camp and won the Work and Travel 2009 video contest with a cash prize. Congrats, Roy!

**Kiara Ray (2008-2009)** has been accepted to Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island.

**Bill Wides (2006-2007, 2009)** is serving as project coordinator for the Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build going on during November and December in Lafayette, La. Job Corps students from the Dallas region are building three new houses and completing four additional houses for families displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

## International Outreach

We are working with **Iamara Araujo (1990, 1994)** in Brazil, **Pedro Paredes** of Campin Rincon Grande in Venezuela (began exchange program with Horizons 20 years ago!), and former camper **Maria Bestard (1990s)** in Spain

to bring international campers to Horizons this summer. International staff, if you're interested in becoming an International Ambassador for Horizons and recruiting in your area, please contact Kim at [Camp@HorizonsVA.com](mailto:Camp@HorizonsVA.com).

## Staff Update

**Equestrian Director Anna Buchanan and Public Relations Specialist Margie Hisey** took horses **Chocolate and Elvis**



on an eight-mile benefit trail ride in October to raise money for Camp Still Meadows, a camp for area disabled children and adults. The Horizons team raised more than \$500 for the cause, and **Elvis**, the youngest of the Horizons herd, had his first outing away from camp!



## Alumni Discount

Alumni, be sure to ask for your special alumni discount when you register your child for camp this year. As a way of saying thanks for your continued support of Camp Horizons, we are offering a special alumni discount honoring a new generation of Camp Horizons campers and marking our 28th year of summer fun!

## Keep in touch!

Our Camp Horizons family is constantly growing and changing, and we want to know what's going on in your life! Stop by for a visit, drop us a line, call or e-mail to update your address, send information or share alumni news. Please send news to [Alumni@HorizonsVa.com](mailto:Alumni@HorizonsVa.com). Also visit our Alumni Page on our web site, [www.CampHorizonsVa.com](http://www.CampHorizonsVa.com) to share contact information for any staff listed there and help us keep in touch with old friends!