



# Happenings from Camp Horizons



December 2011  
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## *Snow greets campers as they return for Fall Reunion fun!*



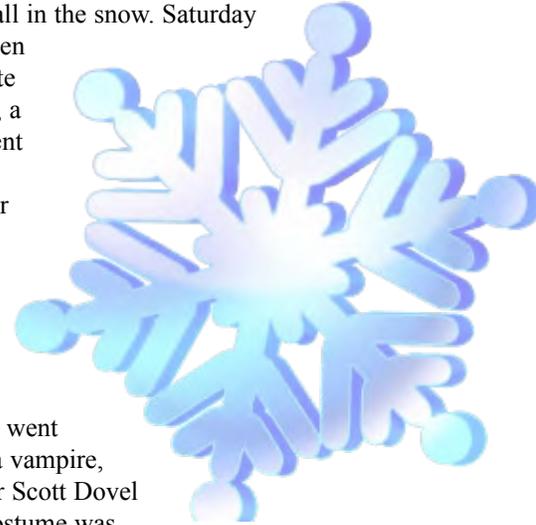
Twenty-nine campers and six staff members gathered Halloween weekend for our annual fall reunion. We had a quick snowstorm on Friday and the snow stuck around until Sunday! Instead of the usual Fall Reunion activities of horseback riding, high ropes and sports, campers enjoyed winter activities like sledding in trash bags, building snowmen and snow forts, winter sports, horse care, Harry Potter

card games and kickball in the snow. Saturday night was the Halloween Extravaganza, complete with pumpkin carving, a costume contest, a talent show and dance.

For the second year in a row, counselor Liz Heilbronner had the most original costume contest, dressed this year as a Virginia Tech student. Scariest costume went to Sophia Herman as a vampire, funniest was counselor Scott Dovel as a surfer, and best costume was Reese Pellegrin as Cleopatra.

Winners of the pumpkin carving contest were Lisa Kolgan, Sam Kane and counselor Jen Wilson.

Thank you to all of our Fall Reunion 2011 participants: Kate Baney, Sharon Blevins, Marley Byorick, Hugh & Macy Cafritz, Rachel Carros, Katherine Cassidy, John Coates, Connor Day, Cece Garner, Emily Golden, Claire Harkins, Sophia Herman, Casey Huntington, Alex Iasso, Sam Kane, Lisa Kolgan, Kennedy Lee, Carly Logan, Katya Maslova, Liam & Peter McPherson, Aidan & Andrew Norville, Reese Pellegrin, Emilie Pratt, Thomas Russell, Callie Smith and Marta Soechting; and staff members Anna Buchanan, Devin Hall, Jake Bogdonoff, Scott Dovel, Liz Heilbronner and Jen Wilson.



## *Horizons Leadership Program deadline Jan. 1, 2012*

Attention rising high school seniors: the deadline for applications for the Horizons Leadership Program is Jan. 1, 2012. The three-week program **for returning campers only** gives rising high school seniors the training, leadership skills, responsibility and self-confidence they need to excel in high school, college, employment and other aspects of their lives. Leadership campers live in cabins with younger campers, help lead camp workshops and activities, and plan special camp-wide programs. They also get training in communication, leadership, teamwork, group dynamics, conflict resolution, camp philosophy and more. Leadership campers plan educational and/or service projects they will implement at home, and get feedback and support in launching these projects. Special Leadership program activities include a trip to the Via Ferrata rock climbing adventure in West Virginia, an overnight canoe trip, spe-

cial dinners, the high and low challenge courses and more!

To apply, please complete the Leadership application and mail it to Camp Horizons by Jan. 1, 2012. Acceptance letters will be mailed on or before Jan. 15, 2012. If any spaces remain after Jan. 15, applications will be accepted until all slots are filled.



**Take advantage of our Early Bird Discount: Register by March 1, 2012 and save \$50 off each week, and our new Multi-Session Discount: Register for 2 or more sessions and save \$30 per session. And don't forget our Sibling Discount: \$50 off each tuition for two or more siblings attending camp.**



# Happy Holidays from Camp HORIZONS

## The Director's Corner



Seasons greeting from Horizons! While the weather seems more spring-like than December, we all are in the holiday spirit here!

Although winter is a slow time for us here at Horizons, it's the perfect time to get projects done. We are completing our work on Lake Phillipa, making it deeper. All of our resident fish were caught and transported to the lake at Adventure Village, where they are enjoying the winter before being transported back to Lake Phillipa. And we're converting our maintenance building to the Outdoor Depot, a storage area for all our outdoor gear.

I'm pleased to welcome back Lori Ostrem, Chris Coventry and Hannah

Dunn, who will be program directors this summer.

This summer we also are excited to introduce a new one-week Adventure program for teens. This year's program will focus on rock climbing and caving.

We also pleased to welcome back Camp Up with People for a second season, (CampUpwithPeople.org). This special international camp for teens focuses on the performing arts, service and global citizenship.

As we begin 2012, we're planning our special staff reunion Labor Day weekend to celebrate 30 seasons of summer fun at Camp Horizons. Additionally, throughout the summer we'll have special events and activities celebrating our 30th anniversary. Lots has changed since Camp Horizons first opened, but our philosophy remains the same – provide interesting, fun and exciting camp activities for kids in a safe, beautiful and welcoming atmosphere. At Camp Horizons, we are many, we are one!

Happy holidays to you all, and best wishes for a peaceful, joyous New Year.

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



*Love Camp?*

## Host a Camp Horizons home visit

Word of mouth continues to be our best form of advertising, and we want to reward you for sharing us with your friends! Gather three or more potential (new) campers, and we'll send a Camp Horizons representative to your house to show our DVD slideshow and share with your friends information about our great camp programs. In exchange, you'll get \$150 off your tuition fees for 2012.

Interested?

Email [Camp@HorizonsVA.com](mailto:Camp@HorizonsVA.com) to schedule a date.

# Horizons Family Album: Scott Dovel

When you ask Scott Dovel what his title here at Horizons is, he hesitates for a moment, then says, "I actually have two titles – facilitator for OLC (Outdoor Learning Center), and Horizons Operations Assistant, which means whatever you need at that moment."

Add to these, Scott also was a counselor this past summer at Camp Horizons, and is a recent graduate of James Madison University, majoring in Sports and Recreation Management.

Scott's willing attitude to do whatever needs to be done and tackle new projects with enthusiasm is a perfect match for OLC, which provides custom outdoor programming and services to clients of all ages and interests.

And in turn, OLC and other Horizons programs have been a good match for Scott, who thrives on being outdoors and sharing his enthusiasm for outdoor recreation with others.

Scott started as a facilitator at OLC last spring after completing practicums with JMU Adventure, the university's outdoor program. His work at OLC morphed into working as a counselor during the summer to complete a summer internship for his major. During the summer, Scott worked primarily with the younger Explorer campers and in the outdoor program.

Although it was his first experience counseling, he wasn't his first experience with camp or with programs like those

offered here at Camp Horizons. As a youngster Scott attended Camp Caroline Furnace, a Lutheran church camp in the area. During high school, Scott was a four-season athlete involved in football, wrestling, track, lacrosse and swimming. Additionally, he was involved in two musicals and completed three years of choir, so he is as well versed in the performing arts as he is in sports. He also has worked with an afterschool program for elementary school kids.

But perhaps most importantly are Scott's determination and commitment to work hard to improve programs here at camp. These stem, in part, from challenges he faced the summer he graduated from nearby Spotswood High School. A devastating auto accident that summer left him wheelchair bound for six months. His freshman experience at JMU was hardly typical as he balanced studies with physical therapy and surgeries to regain his strength, mobility and ability to walk, and the challenge of adjusting emotionally to the ramifications of the accident. But through it all, Scott's determination and overall optimistic attitude shone through.

They still do today as he tackles his job at OLC, working during the off season to refine programs and operations here. "It's a nice feeling that I can help change the direction of OLC," he said. Once spring draws near, Scott will again be



working with groups and leading activities. Come summer, he'll be counseling again – a prospect he looks forward to. "I love working with kids," he says. "Every week is a new great experience."

Scott also is intrigued with being associated with Endless Horizons, the parent organization of both Camp Horizons and OLC. "Working with (owner) John Hall provides lots of options. Endless Horizons is always growing."

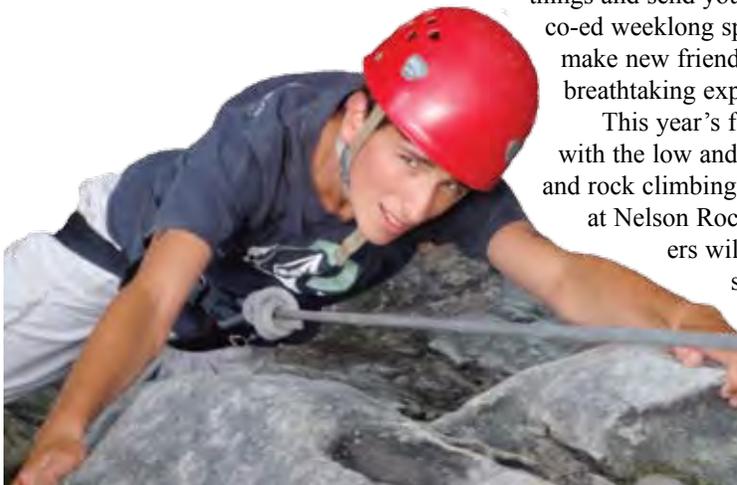
While he may not know what his future will entail, Scott does know that he wants to remain in outdoor recreation, sharing his love of the outdoors with others. Down the road he may consider graduate school with the aim of eventually heading a college or university outdoor program.

## One-week Adventure Camp focuses on rock climbing, caving

Looking for some adventure that challenges you to reach new heights, try new things and send your self-confidence soaring? Try Horizons Adventure Camp, a co-ed weeklong specialty camp for teens ages 14-17. Campers gain new skills and make new friends as our experienced instructors lead them through a variety of breathtaking experiences.

This year's focus for Adventure is rock climbing and caving. Activities start with the low and high ropes initiatives here at camp, and move on to caving and rock climbing. Activities take place here at Camp, in surrounding areas, and at Nelson Rocks Outdoor Center in neighboring West Virginia, where campers will scale the area's magnificent rock faces and challenge themselves on the spectacular Via Ferrata climbing experience. Camp Horizons provides transportation to and from all activities.

Central to the Adventure program is our "Challenge by Choice" philosophy that allows campers to set individual goals and feel pride in their accomplishments, regardless of their experience or skill level.



# Alumni News, Views and Happenings

## 1990s

**Jessica Gonzalez (1994-1995)** recently moved to St. Louis, Mo., where she is the director of alumni relations at John F. Kennedy Catholic High School.



Jessica with son Luis.

**Amoz and Sylvia Leeb (1997)**, who worked in the kitchen under Mary Teal, live in Land O Lakes, Fla., with children Caleb (12) and Caitlen (8).

**Sara (Fleege) Lloyd (1993, 1995, 1998)** participated in the Xterra (off-road triathlon) World Championships in Maui, this past October. Sara finished the race in the middle of the pack and only crashed once.



Sara with step-daughter Shylo.



**Carey Miller (1993, 1996)** and Joani Schweitzer were married on Oct. 1.

**Pavel Nosek (1996, 1997, 1999)**, wife Zuzana Noskova and big brother Pavel, Jr. welcomed baby Lukas in May in the Czech Republic. (Photo)



Pavel with brother Lukas.

## 2002

**Nick Waterton (2001-2002)** and

Carol Fitzpatrick welcomed daughter Mollie Patrice Waterton, who was born Sept. 25 in England.



## 2003

**Erin (Jones) Lorenc (2003), Naomi(Sandler) Gunter (2003), and Kehl Mandt (2003-2004)** pause



for a picture at the Conely Cabin while hiking in the Shenandoah National Park this fall.



Photo by Rebekah Girvan Photography

**Rachel Posner (2003, former camper)** and Harrison Green were married on Oct. 8 in Richmond, Va.

Rachel's sister, **Emily Posner (2006-2007, former camper)**, was the maid of honor. Rachel is a high school science teacher in Richmond. Emily currently works as a graphic designer in Arlington, VA.

## 2005

Chris and **Amanda (Rider) Whippen (2003-2005)** welcomed daughter Avery Logan Whippen, born Sept. 22 in Pennsylvania.



## 2009



**Gino Gauamis (2009)** graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia degree. He and his wife, **Nell (2009)**, along with sons **Alex and Noah (campers 2009)**, are moving to Toledo, Ohio, where he will be working at The Toledo Hospital.

**Giulian Garruba (2010 and former**

## 2010

**camper)** is a student football manager at Georgia Tech. He will be headed to El Paso, Texas for the Sun Bowl on Dec. 31 before heading to Australia and New Zealand for a semester abroad this spring.



**Graham Hollingdale (2007-2010)** visited **Devin Hall (2008-2011)** for his first ever Thanksgiving Day. They also visited with **Coles Ide (2010)** to celebrate her graduation from nursing school.

Rayce (2010) and Amanda (Heaton) Williams (2010-2011) are teaching English in Changchun, China for a year.

## 2011

**Lori Ostrem's (2006-2011)** new puppy Tater joins Trek at home.



**OPPS!** We left camper Nadia Terry off the camper list in the Fall newsletter. Nadia celebrated six years at Horizons in 2011!

## New Campers! Visit camp during our Open House

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 our Open House, where you'll get a chance to meet our staff, check out the cabins and other facilities and get a feel for camp.

We're holding our Open Houses on Saturday, March 5 and Sunday, March 6. The 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 e-mail us at [Camp@HorizonsVA.com](mailto:Camp@HorizonsVA.com) or call (540-896-7600) to register. If these dates don't work for you, please let us know and we'll schedule a tour for you.

## Keep in touch!

We love to hear from our ever-growing Camp Horizons family, so keep in touch! Stop by for a visit, drop us a line or e-mail us to update your address, send information or share any alumni news. Please send news and photos to [Alumni@HorizonsVA.com](mailto:Alumni@HorizonsVA.com). Visit our Alumni page on our web site, [www.CampHorizonsVA.com](http://www.CampHorizonsVA.com) to see if you have contact information for any of the staff listed there. Also be sure to visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/camphorizonsva](http://www.facebook.com/camphorizonsva), follow us on Twitter at [http://twitter.com/camp\\_horizons](http://twitter.com/camp_horizons), or check out of camp blog at <http://camphorizons.wordpress.com>.