

# CAMP MERRIE-WOODE

Situated, Celebrated on Fairfield Lake

Fall 2010

## Merrie-Woode Acquires More Property with Preservation in Mind

The Merrie-Woode Foundation has exciting news to share with you. The Board of Trustees and the Executive Directors have worked diligently to expand and protect camp's beautiful setting from encroaching development. On August 12, 2010, the Board was successful in acquiring additional land along the camp's road. This acquisition was a combined donation of one commercial parcel and the purchase of four additional residential lots that border Merrie-Woode's road at the Highway 64 entrance.

Mr. Gene Howerdd, Jr., the developer of the Round Hill Estates, shared our concern regarding the potential for commercial development between the entrances to Round Hill and Merrie-Woode. Mr. Howerdd donated the commercial parcel to Merrie-Woode with the intention of preserving this site from development. In addition to this donation, Merrie-Woode purchased the four Round Hill residential lots for \$525,000.

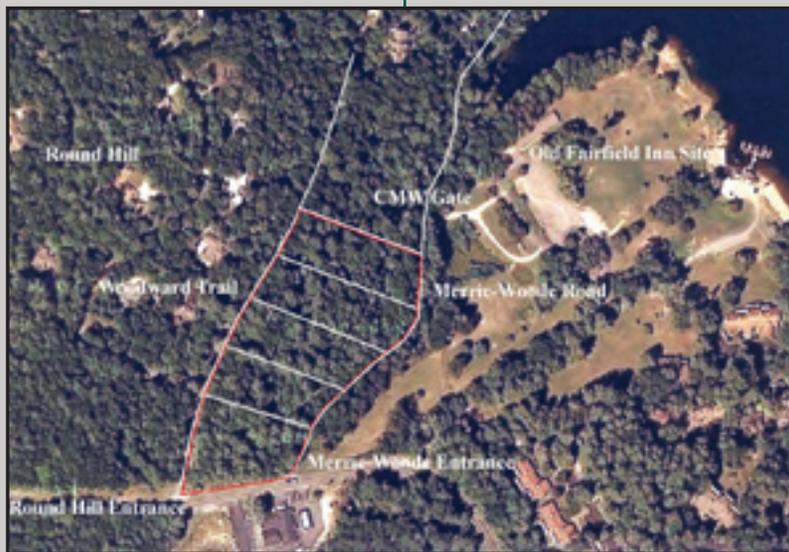
The Board has had a long held vision of protecting the camp's surrounding property. Over the last fifteen years, the Foundation has made a concerted effort to acquire property as it became available. The purchases include 33 acres on the backside of Round Hill (adjacent to the camp's stables and across from the chapel area), the 17 acre Inn Site Property, as well as a lot along the camp road where our new gates are located. One very significant piece of property

located on the east side of Lake Fairfield (a 100 acre tract extending from the camp gate on the Lake Trail to the dam and over the top of Little Bald) was the most challenging to obtain, but in 2005 the Merrie-

Woode Foundation was finally able to acquire this beautiful tract of land.

These acquisitions have been made possible largely through the generous giving of alumnae to Merrie-Woode. We would like to thank each of our past supporters who have given so generously to the *Place of Rarest Beauty*, *Inn Site*, and *Place of*

*Rarest Beauty – the final piece* campaigns. Your gifts have been carefully used to make these land purchases. If there are any members of the Merrie-Woode community who feel strongly about the importance of preserving this most recent purchase, we would greatly appreciate contributions for this purpose.



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## At Wit's End

We hope this newsletter finds you doing well and that you are enjoying the beautiful autumn leaves. We feel fortunate to be able to walk around the Lake Trail in camp; the fall colors are a sight to behold. If it has been awhile since you've seen camp in the fall, it's worth the trip next year. We finished the camper application process in September and once again, camp is at capacity for 2011, with waitlists. We are thankful to our Merrie-Woode families for being patient as we work through the enrollment process each fall, especially those families interested in our June session. We are thrilled that Merrie-Woode continues to enhance the lives of so many young women each year.

We are looking forward to an off season filled with many projects. Doxology, Briar Patch, and Buckingham Palace are getting some much needed repairs. The floors, walls, and ceilings were getting covered in graffiti and the bathroom areas were showing some age. The campers and staff will be pleased with the cleaner and brighter look. We also plan to add new trails on the other side of the lake and an additional camping shelter. The High Heaven kitchen will be remodeled, too. These tasks are sure to keep us busy throughout the winter.

Merrie-Woode's 92nd summer along Lake Fairfield was better than ever, especially with the excitement over the new Nature Nook! The improvements to the Nature Nook and the new nature curriculum made Nature one of the most popular activities this summer. We also enjoyed

the June session drama production of *Charlotte's Web* and the Main session drama production of *Into the Woods* this summer. Our Chapel services were uplifting, especially when we were fortunate to have alumnae come to speak. Susan Lewis Edwards (90-99), an ordained minister, inspired the girls with her sermon one Sunday. There were so many highlights around camp this summer - Evening Programs, "Lady Gaga" themed Banquets and our Flash Mob dance are just a few that come to mind. If you haven't had an opportunity to see our Main session staff and campers perform their "surprise dance" on the tennis courts for Senior Staff, you can watch it on YouTube.com (type in - cmwflashmob). You'll be amazed!

We have enjoyed our quiet fall. Tyler is in the Florida Keys doing his internship, and Bradley started his freshman year at UNC Chapel Hill. We attended the Chapel Hill Parents Weekend in October, and the whole weekend felt like a Merrie-Woode Reunion. We are grateful to all of our CMW girls who made us feel so welcome at their sororities. We had a lot of fun! We look forward to spending time with Tyler and Bradley when they come home for the holidays. We hope that everyone has a safe and happy holiday season, and we hope to see many of you during our upcoming travels.

Chug a Wump!

*Heaven and Jim*

## Staff News

**Katy Allamong** will graduate from Hollins University in May 2011, and she hopes to be offered a job with Teach for America. **Virginia Alverson** lives in Birmingham, AL these days. She's enjoying her work and had a chance to visit camp this summer. Halfway across the world, **Helena Botes** is making plans to begin her first year at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand this Spring. She hopes to time her exams so that she can



*Elizabeth Bean and  
Mary Parke McEachran*

spend the summer at Merrie-Woode! **Campbell Bowers** is in touch with the year-round Merrie-Woode staff every once in a while. She says school is going well, though she can't believe she will be graduating in May! Campbell is enjoying her internship with a Charleston, SC art gallery and spending as much time with camp friends as possible. She will host a big group for her birthday in October: **Grace Thornton, Perry Ellis, Sarah**



*Donna Nash and Sarah Chatel*

**Wynn, Rachel Garrett, Caroline Reeves, and Lillie Cochran.** Come support **Jessica Bowers** in her senior art show entitled “Renovating Existence.” The show will be exhibited in Clemson’s Lee Gallery December 6-10 with a reception December 10 from 7-9pm. **Kaye Burch** is still working hard on her graduate degree in Spanish at Georgia Southern University. While she takes her own graduate classes, Kaye is busy teaching two undergraduate Spanish classes. College of Charleston seems to be the home of so many Merrie-Woode staff members this year! **Caroline Carnahan** is the Philanthropic Chair for Theta this semester. When she is not busy with her sorority work, Caroline runs into **Campbell Bowers, Tee Bowers, Ellie Lee, and Mallie Salerno.** Although it is plenty of work, **Sarah Chatel’s** first semester at Converse College is going well. She is quite busy with the Converse Equestrian Team, but she is making many friends and loving school. This semester, **Eliza Coker** is enjoying her study abroad program in Rome, Italy. In August, **Riley Dickey** graduated with Honors from Air Force Basic Training and is currently in Tech School in west Texas. Starting in March, Riley will be stationed at Buckley Airforce Base, which is just

outside of Denver. Riley took a quick break from school recently to spend the weekend with **Audrey Dyer** in Austin, TX. We heard that **Perry Ellis** loves graduate school at UVA. She is studying Speech Language Pathology and is working hard, but she also finds time for fun! Perry says it has been great seeing more of her family now that she is back in Virginia. In her free time, Perry volunteers for her sorority by advising the UVA chapter. Congratulations to **Kay Gordon** for making the Ithaca College Gymnastics Team again! After spending her freshman year as an Art History major, **Alex Green** has changed her major to Historic Preservation at the University of Mary Washington. Even though we wanted her to work at camp last summer, we are happy to report that **Georgia Grey** had a wonderful summer traveling and studying at Oxford. Hopefully Georgia will be back at camp in 2011! As a freshman at Florida State University, **Ciele Gutierrez** is double majoring in Theatre and Education. She recently auditioned for the Film School, hoping to be cast in one of the student films. Ciele also joined the University Sailing Club, so perhaps she will be available to help with sailing classes next summer! The semester is already busy for **Catie Hancock**, who has spent a lot of time working in elementary schools for her Education major at Furman. She has one classroom of first graders and another with infants and toddlers who have special needs. She loves being in the classroom and can’t wait to start her own teaching career! In her “spare” time, Catie has been heavily involved in a fundraising event for her sorority’s philanthropy. Service for Sight promotes eye protection awareness and benefits the blind community. Catie and her sorority sisters raised \$6,000 for the cause! Working as an RA is a big job—just ask **Oksana Henry**. She is juggling

RA responsibilities while also taking the combination of nursing classes and Russian classes. Oksana is also looking into study abroad programs and is excited for another summer at Merrie-Woode. Though **Kelli Hewitt** is glad to be home in Australia after months at camp, she misses everyone at Merrie-Woode terribly. She plans to visit **Lucy Wood** before Christmas, and we hope to see her in the states for a visit within the next few years. Don’t forget about us, Kelli! Though they are sad without **Laughlin Kane**, who is studying in Madrid this semester, **Maggie Niehaus** and **Sarah Josey** are enjoying their junior year at Wake Forest. Maggie and Sarah keep busy babysitting for **Walker Freeman Jones’** baby girl, Frazier. **Ellie Lee** says not much is new with school at College of Charleston, but she was excited to have a visit from **Megan McCall** a few weekends ago. School is gaining momentum for **James Luby**, who recently finished training for his RA position at UCLA. Classes have started, and he is looking forward to planning some exciting programs for his building’s residents. He is having a good first quarter of school and is particularly interested in his classes on archeology, Jazz in American culture, and global warming/climate change. In his spare time, James has been practicing hard with the sailing team. **Caity Mans** is interning with the Saint Augustine Lighthouse and Museum while still juggling her



*Elisabeth Foster, Callie McCraney, and Maddie Williams*

History major and her responsibilities as an RA. **Maddie Marion** secured an internship for her January term at Hollins University. Maddie will be working with the Salem, VA Adult Probation and Parole Court Service Unit. Over at Western Carolina University, **Holly Marsh** is working hard in all of her classes. She is speaking on November 2nd at the Wild Adventure Conference; good luck with your presentation, Holly! The news from UNC-Chapel Hill is that **Katy Miller** and **Rachel Garrett** joined Kappa Delta with **Lillie Cochran**. Katy says it is kind of like "camp all year-round!" Before graduating from UGA in December, **Tiffany Payne** is studying at Oxford for her final semester. She went punting near Oxford, which is like poling in the Merrie-Woode Boating Program. Tiffany, perhaps you can show us your stuff next summer on the lake! **Lauren Pleasants** is studying for her GRE and hopes to start graduate school for Biology at Western Carolina University. If the timing works out, Lauren hopes to be at camp in 2011. UGA is filled with Merrie-Woode staff members this year! **Meredith Price** loves running into **Ellie Boydston** and

**Elisabeth Foster**, as well as others, on a regular basis. Meredith just switched her major to Dietetics and is on the Community Outreach Committee for a philanthropy called ugaMiracle. The Miami of Ohio Rowing Club is benefiting from **Kara Leigh Pulley's** time and energy. Kara is spending most of her free time coxing for a men's boat this year. She loves working with the team and will be travelling for regattas in Cleveland, Philadelphia, Boston, and Tennessee within the next couple of months. After spending her summer as the Mountaineering Head, **Grace Thorington** got a job at Piece of Cake, a cake factory in Atlanta, GA. Grace spent Labor Day weekend in Charleston, SC hanging out with **Caroline Carnahan**, **Campbell Bowers**, and **Tee Bowers**. **Amanda Von Thron** loves student teaching at Butler High School in Charlotte, NC. She was recently offered a full-time teaching job at Butler that starts in January. Congrats, AVT! Speaking of teaching, **Amory Walker** is moving to France to teach English as a Second Language. She is very excited for this opportunity, and we wish her luck on the big adventure. As a

senior at NC State, **Vivian Weatherby** is busy with all sorts of exciting things. She is volunteering at the SPCA Animal Shelter and at the Boys and Girls Club in downtown Raleigh. If that's not enough, Vivian recently became a founding sister of Kappa Delta at NC State and is trying to get her research project regarding Facebook relationships published this year. After graduating from Agnes Scott College in May of 2011, **Kalena Williams** will return to Merrie-Woode before joining the Peace Corps in August. Though she had a great summer at camp, **Maddie Williams** is hoping to spend next summer studying in Germany.



*Catie Hancock, Shelby Lopez, and Sarah Logan*

## Alumnae News



*Virginia Alverson (93-09), Corbin Dunlap (94-05), Lisa Benson Woolner (94-05), Kathryn Calder Barmore (93-05), Ashley Sullivan (92-02), Natalie Williams (92-06), and Landis Carey (92-05) visiting camp*

**Jody Shartle Anderson (42-46)** swam at a national Masters Short Course Swim Meet in Atlanta this past May, following her 80th birthday. The meet was held at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center, which was where the Olympic swimming events were held in 1996. In her events, Jody came in second place three times, third place once, and fourth place once. Congratulations, Jody! We're happy to see that your Merrie-Woode spirit is still going strong! **Lisa Barrett (94-97)** is working in Los Angeles as a screenwriter and Vice President of Development for a film and



*Jody Shartle Anderson (42-46) at the U.S. Masters Swimming Short Course*

television production company. **Betsy Beveridge (95-05)** is enjoying living in Baltimore where



*Sarah Nash Bumpas (87-98)  
visits a school in Africa*

she is working in the Admissions Office at McDaniel College, her alma mater. **Clare Block (97-01)** is an account coordinator at a biotech PR firm in San Diego, CA. **Audrey Block (99-02)** is a student at St. Louis University where she is working towards a degree in Physical Therapy. Alex and **Sarah Nash Bumpas (87-98)** traveled on a fifteen day safari in Tanzania, Africa this past June. They saw a wide range of wild animals on the trip and enjoyed visiting a local school, hunting with Hadzabe bushmen, and doing beadwork with Masai women. It was an amazing trip, and they treasure the experience. **Mary Jane Altvater Caison (54)** celebrated her 70th birthday at camp this past summer in High Heaven. Her daughters, **Barrie Caison Benson (81-85)** and **Cammie Caison Camp (76-82)** both attended with their families. **Darden Callaway (01-07)** was awarded the prestigious John Montgomery Belk scholarship to Davidson College. Former mountaineering counselor, **Tom Copeland (06-07)**, is enjoying his job as a high school science teacher in Asheville, NC. **Mary Stuart Couch Hurst (94-07)** enjoyed spending a weekend at camp this past spring with a group of friends including her sister, **Franny Couch (97-06)**, and fellow Merrie-Woode girls, **Mary Coleman Rogers (94-07)** and **Carter Coker (93-08)**. Carter is staying busy studying law at Vanderbilt University. **Conley Crimmins (99-04)** has started her sophomore year at Wake Forest

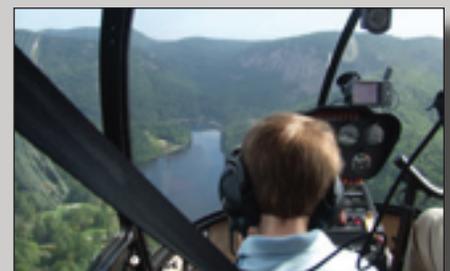
University. **Patricia Evans Denz (88-95)** and her husband, Peter, are living in Cary, NC. Patricia works as a Major Gifts Coordinator with Hospice of Wake County where they just finished construction on the first freestanding Hospice home in the area. **Whitney Dunlap (89-04)** is in Durham, working at Duke in the athletics department. Having recently graduated from Beacon College, **Chelsea Eubank (99-01)** is busy managing her clothing company, Faithful Fish. Last year, Chelsea made the finals of the Student Global Entrepreneur Award sponsored by Mercedes Benz. She competed against 1,300 students from around the world and made it into the top 30. She is also working as *Seventeen* magazine's online



*Dean and Lauren Thomas Flores  
(84-97) and sons, Sam and Thomas*

money advisor. **Lauren Thomas Flores (84-97)**, **Meredith McKenney Clayton (84-95)** and **Molly McKenney Flournoy (83-87)** recently enjoyed a weekend together at Callaway Gardens with family and friends. The weekend highlight was a huge tailgate at the Auburn-Clemson game. They will soon be searching for a boys' camp for their sons, who turned 5 over the summer. Lauren has recently accepted the position of the Director of Development for The Westminster Fund. She is excited to join the Westminster community - one that has so many ties to Merrie-Woode! **Jennifer Glasse (97-04)** spent the summer training at the highly esteemed Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago, founded in part

by Gary Sinise and John Malkovich. Former counselor and jewelry instructor, **Siri Hiltz (07-08)**, has started grad school at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver where she is studying library science. **Ainsley Hines (87-98)** recently got together with a big group of camp friends. She enjoyed visiting with **Emily Pittman Funderburk (87-01)**, **Catherine Carr (87-95)**, **Liz Landry (89-01)**, **Sarah Nash Bumpas (87-98)**, **Schaap Freeman Fouse (90-95)**, **Ashley Smith Thompson (86-98)**, **Elizabeth Dempsey Merritt (88-98)**, **Evelyn Simmons Kissel (88-95)**, and **Kelley Landry Doiron (88-00)**. **Jenn Hobby (88-95)** co-hosted *Live With Regis and Kelly* with Regis Philbin on August 20, 2010. She works regularly as the co-host of *The Bert Show*, a radio program out of Atlanta. **Sarah Johnson (98-03)** has graduated from Princeton University with a degree in Art History and Archeology. She spent the summer on a dig in Syria and will be starting a job in August with Edelman PR in New York City. **McKinley Kane (96-02)** graduated from Wake Forest University this year while her sister, **Laughlin Kane (97-08)**, has entered her junior year at Wake Forest. **Lauren Kelley (98-02)** graduated from Rollins College in May of 2009 with a degree in Art History. She has moved to Charleston, SC where she is taking classes in Historic Preservation at the College of Charleston. **Elizabeth Kennedy (98-05)** is working for Chanel in



*Avery Harrelson Jones' (84-99) son,  
Thompson, flying over  
Lake Fairfield in a helicopter*



*Elissa McCarty (95-03) and Bonnie Miller at the 2010 Warrior Dash*

New York City. **Emily Williams King (90-01)** and her family moved back to Raleigh, NC after living in Houston, TX for the past five years. Emily is working as a psychologist for children, adolescents, and families with Southeast Family Services of Raleigh. She is excited to be closer to family again, and to camp! **Maryanna Phillips Koehring (82-95)** and her family are enjoying a beautiful New England autumn in the small town of Essex Junction, Vermont. **Liz Lee (93-08)** has accepted a job working for Exxon Mobil in Houston, TX. She will begin in May of 2011. **Elissa McCarty (95-03)** competed last May in the 2010 Warrior Dash, an extreme thrill seeking obstacle course race, with her boyfriend's mother, Bonnie Miller. Elissa graduated from Le Cordon Bleu culinary school in August and is now a chef at



*Children of camp friends, Kelly Roberson (82-86) and Allison Almand Ezell (79-87): Shelby Roberson, Will Ezell, Stevens Roberson, and Emily Ezell*

Cherokee Town and Country Club in Atlanta. They have been voted "Best Country Club" in the nation since 1997. **Clare McKenzie (99-07)** is working for Vintage 59 wine importers in Washington, D.C. **Cece Montgomery (04-05)** is one of a select group of students to complete the National Ballet Training Program at Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Ballet School at American Ballet Theatre in New York City. In July 2010, Cece accepted an eight month position with the Studio Company of Colorado Ballet in Denver. She is a senior in high school at Professional Children's School in New York City and will return to NYC in March. Cece enjoyed having **Elizabeth Rawlings (04-present)** visit her in New York this year. **Nina Montgomery (04-06)** is New Jersey's Junior Miss 2010 and a freshman at Dartmouth College. She is a national spokesperson for Wired Safety and will be starting the first national live hot line for internet bullying through Wired Safety at Dartmouth. Nina enjoyed visiting **Ciele Guiteriez (04-present)** in Miami this past winter. **Anna Katherine Moore (00-08)** is working at the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre as a stage management apprentice. Former counselor, **Barry Neely (01-02)**, composed the music for the feature film, *Escape From Darwin*. The film won "Best Action Movie" at both the New York International Film Festival and Indie Gathering Festival. **Amber Skye (97-08)** is busy working on her music career in New York City and lives only a block away from **Calvert Coley (96-04)**. A five song album will be released this fall which includes the song "Locked in Love," which became so popular at camp this past summer. She will also be launching her website this fall: [www.amberskyemusic.com](http://www.amberskyemusic.com). **Sarah Palmer (96-98)** moved to New York City this past summer. **Stephanie Pate (00-06)** is working



*Carrie Cannon Wessel's (85-95) children, Carolina and John Cannon*

for North Cascades Institute, an educational non-profit organization in North Cascades National Park in Washington state. She is teaching groups of 5th graders as they spend three day trips in the park learning about the natural history of the area. Stephanie is also studying for her Masters in Environmental Education at Western Washington University. **Jane Potts (63-67)** is living in Charleston, SC. **Gretchen Presnell (95-96)** is also living in Charleston, SC where she is enjoying her job as a first grade teacher. **Nicole Anaclerio Pryor (81-97)** lives in Illinois with her husband, Billy, and three children. Billy was deployed to serve in Kuwait this past May.



*Mary Coleman Rogers (94-07), Mary Stuart Couch Hurst (94-07), Carter Coker (92-08), and Franny Couch (97-06)*

Our prayers will be with the Pryor family while Billy serves in active duty. **Kelly Roberson (82-86)** and **Allison Almand Ezell (79-87)** and their families enjoyed spending some time together in Panama City, FL this summer. **Mary Coleman Rogers (94-07)** has moved to Atlanta for grad school to study Architecture at Georgia Tech. **Anna Salzillo (98-02)** is pursuing a modeling career. **Suzannah Simmons (92-93)** is living in Washington DC, where she is working as the executive assistant to the CEO and CFO of a small company that contracts with the government, as well as coordinating

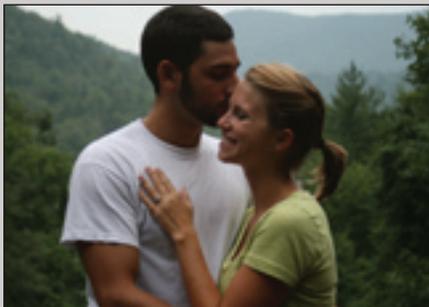


*Jenn Hobby (88-95) co-hosting  
Live With Regis and Kelly*

private events and parties. **Leigh Simon (95-99)** is completing her BA at Tulane University in Social Sciences and has plans to achieve her MSW in the UNC system.

Jeremy and **Liz Moore Uecker (90-99)** have moved to Chapel Hill, NC with their young daughter, Annie. **Ace Webre (91-05)** has finished grad school at NYU and is now teaching middle school in Alexandria, VA. **Natalie Williams (92-06)** graduated from USC's Primary Care Physician Assistant Program this past May. She has now moved to Atlanta. John and **Edie Lainer Wright (83-90)** are living in San Antonio, TX where their two young boys, Jack and Whit, keep them busy. **Kady Yeomans (00-03)** spent the past summer studying archeology in the Mayan ruins of Belize.

## CMW Engagements and Weddings



*Alison Chatel (97-08) and her fiancé,  
Chad Paris, on the porch of High Heaven*

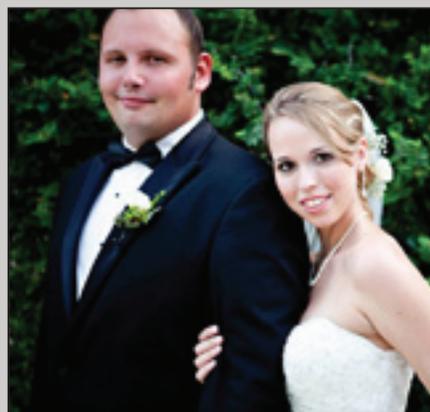
Former counselor, **Pamela Bennett (04-05)** was married to Mike Van Deelen. Chad Paris proposed to **Alison Chatel (97-08)** on the balcony of High Heaven on August 11<sup>th</sup>. **Mary Stuart Couch (94-07)** married Stuart Hurst in May. **Tait Davidson (89-98)** married Hunter Flint, brother of **Sarah Flint (98-00)**, at Merrie-Woode on October 9, 2010. **Ashley Garner (95-07)** married Joseph Dringo on September 18, 2010 in Orlando, FL. Her sisters, **Lindsay Garner Hostetler (92-present)** and **Kaley Garner (02-present)**, were in the wedding party. **Grey Gibson (95-96)** is engaged to be married. She will also be attending

UNC - Kenan Flagler to earn an MBA. **Sarah Haman (96-08)** is engaged to Lee Collette, a graduate student at Appalachian State University. The wedding date is set for April 16, 2011 in Pittsboro, NC. **Laura Heyward (94-05)** married Corey Sturkie on April 10, 2010. **Katherine McDonough (95-06)** was her Maid of Honor. The newlyweds are living in West Columbia, SC. **Jenn Hobby (88-95)** is engaged to be married to Grant Rivera this fall. **Wright Kaminer (96-04)** is engaged to be married to Andrew Karlin in October. **Erin McGirt (94-99)** is



*Sarah Haman (96-08) and  
her fiancé, Lee Collette*

engaged to be married in January of 2011. She is living in England where she is studying to earn a MA in Urban Design and MS in Spatial Planning with a specialization in Urban and Regional Regeneration. Former counselor, **Tatia McMillan (07-08)** is engaged to Jason Gibson. He proposed while they were on a cruise to the Caribbean. The couple will be married in Greenville, SC on January 22, 2011. Former counselor, **Jenna Niedringhaus (04)** got married in the summer of 2009. **Celine van Riemsdijk (95-97)** is living in San Francisco



*Joe and Ashley Garner Dringo (95-07)*



*Tatia McMillan (07-08) and her fiancé, Jason Gibson*



*Sam and Meg Roach Booth (99-00)*



*Joseph and Elizabeth Tessier Crescenzo (94-02)*

and was married in September of 2010. **Meg Roach (90-00)** married Captain Sam Booth on September 5, 2010 in a small ceremony with family in Richmond, VA. Sam deploys for Afghanistan in October and will be gone until next August. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Meg and Sam while he serves overseas. **Elizabeth Tessier (94-02)** married Mr. Joseph Paul Crescenzo, III on April 10, 2010 in New Orleans, LA. The couple is now living in Houston, TX.



*Hunter and Tait Davidson Flint (89-98) on the Camp Merrie-Woode dock*



*Andrew Karlin and Wright Kaminer (96-04) at their October 29th Rehearsal Dinner*

## CMW Births



*Colleen Kerney's (92-00) daughter, Ada Dove Alexander*

expecting their first child at the end of November. Burney and **Mary Craven Hines Dawkins (92-95)** have welcomed their first child, Johnsie Claire Dawkins. **Courtenay McCormick Fain (80-84)** and her husband, Baron,



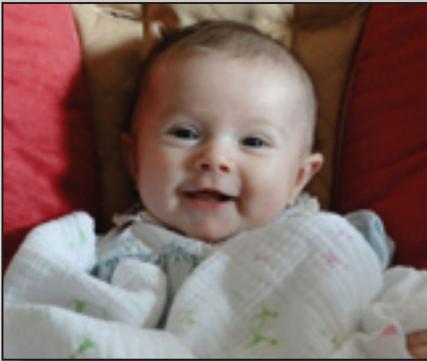
*Laurie Easterwood Smith's (01-06) son, Finn*



*Courtenay McCormick Fain's*

Former counselor, **Juli Warfel Bitler (98)**, and her husband, Rob, welcomed their first child, Harrison, on January 14, 2010. **Josie Bray (99-02)** and her husband, Jack, are

have a new addition to their family! They welcomed their son, Taliaferro "Tradd" Rice Fain, into the world on May 25, 2010. **Lesley Schrader Flynn (82-94)** is working as a



*Walker Freeman Jones' (93-04)  
daughter, Frazier Dibrell Jones*



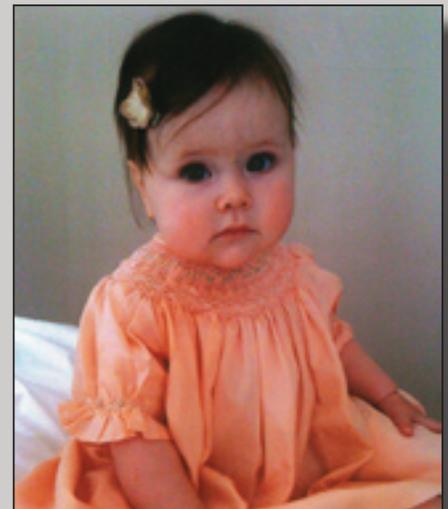
*Henry and Wade Van Horn, sons of  
Betsy Hassinger Van Horn (93-97)*



*Kris Bell Humphreys' (87-99) son,  
William Preston Humphreys, V*

Registered Nurse in California. She and her husband have welcomed a new addition to their family, Elizabeth April Flynn. They look forward to being able to send her to Merrie-Woode as soon as she's old enough to paddle a canoe! Clay and **Schaap Freeman Fouse (90-95)** welcomed a baby girl to their family! Virginia Walker Freeman Fouse was born March 16, 2010. **Kris Bell Humphreys (87-99)** and her husband, Preston, are excited to announce the birth of their second child. William Preston Humphreys, V was born on September 8, 2010. Blair and **Holland Horner Hunt (03)** welcomed their daughter, Mary Knox Hunt, on June 8, 2010. She weighed eight pounds and eight ounces. **Walker Freeman Jones (93-04)** and her husband, Mark, have welcomed their first child. Frazier Dibrell Jones arrived on

May 26, 2010. **Colleen Kerney (92-00)** and her husband, Nick Alexander, welcomed a daughter, Ada Dove Alexander, last spring. **Katie Bee Rogers Marshall (92-96)** is expecting her first child in January. Jay and **Laurie Easterwood Smith (01-06)**, former mountaineering staff member, have welcomed their first child, James Finn Smith. Finn was born on February 20, 2010 and weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces. Woodie and **Betsy Hassinger Van Horn (93-97)** welcomed their second child, Henry Hassinger Van Horn, on May 10, 2010. He weighed in at 7 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches. **Jackie Chmar Watkins (90-92)** is working for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. She and her husband, Stephen, are expecting their first child in May.



*Johnsie Claire Dawkins, daughter of  
Mary Craven Hines Dawkins (92-95)*

## In Memoriam

**Barbara Lizora Schoolfield Miller (26-28)**, born October 29, 1913, passed away this October in Richmond, VA. She was 96 years old. She enjoyed spending her camper days in the 1920's at Merrie-Woode with her two sisters, Jane and Frank.

**Elizabeth "Bette" Thompson Gates Neal (92-96)** passed away on Wednesday, June 9, 2010. She was 90 years old. Bette was the head of the weaving program here at Merrie-Woode from 1992 through 1996. Bette was known around camp not only for her beautiful weaving, but her quick wit and the many silver bracelets that adorned her wrists. Both of these women will be missed by the Merrie-Woode family.



*Bette Neal (92-96),  
busy in the Weaving Hut*

## High Heaven Renovations Underway!

Good news: High Heaven is getting a face lift! Built decades ago, High Heaven originally served as the Executive Directors' home. These days, High Heaven serves as a rental facility for alumnae groups. The facility is well loved and has served generations of happy Merrie-Woode families, but it is time for some much needed updates. Thanks to many of you who have given feedback on High Heaven's condition, we have a multi-step plan for the renovation.

First, the project includes freshening up the bedrooms and living room. We will update the blinds and the bedding to make each room a little more modern but still quite homey. The outdoor staircase and deck railings will have some work in order to make them more sturdy and safe. There are also some roof repairs included in the proposed work that will help the house stay warm and well insulated in the winter.

The majority of High Heaven's renovation will occur within the kitchen. The long, narrow room will be gutted completely in order to reconfigure its layout, making for a more user-friendly space. Once the

space is more accessible, new cabinets and appliances will be added. The finishing touches include freshly stocked dishes, stemware, and cooking tools.

We expect the work to be complete by mid February, and we can't wait for you to see the updated High Heaven. If you are interested in renting the facility, please call Phyllis in the Main Office (828-743-3300).

And if that's not enough, we have another new rental facility to introduce! As you may remember, our facilities crew built the new cabin of Avalon last year and spent much of the spring renovating the old one. Now called Merlin's Alderley Edge, the old Avalon is now a winterized duplex that can be used year-round.

In the summer, Alderley Edge houses some of our more mature staff members who no longer live in cabins with campers. In the off season, the duplex will be available for rental. Each side of the duplex houses one queen-sized bed, a breakfast table with 2 chairs, a kitchenette, a full bathroom, and a spacious closet. Call Phyllis at the Main Office (828-743-3300) to book Merlin's Alderley Edge!



*The current kitchen of High Heaven*



*Merlin's Alderley Edge*

## We've Lost These Alumnae!

We are looking for any current contact information or news for the following lost alumnae. Please call the camp office or email Lindsay Garner Hostetler at [lindsay@merriewoode.com](mailto:lindsay@merriewoode.com) if you have any updates!

<i>Name</i>	<i>Years at Merrie-Woode</i>
Mamrie Hart	2002 – 2005
Ann Hopkins	1962 – 1965
Lang King	1962 – 1964

<i>Name</i>	<i>Years at Merrie-Woode</i>
Gail Linder	1962 – 1965
Pam Lund	1962 – 1966
Cackie Miller	1962 – 1968
Chesney Guyon	1962 – 1965
Lynn Russell Cohen	1962 – 1967
Suzie Hanson Deal	1962 – 1967
Lane Winn	1963 – 1966
Bevelle White Puffer	1964 – 1969

## Old Hill Cabins Receive a Much Needed Facelift

Merrie-Woode's facilities crew has been working hard this fall to spruce up the cabins of Briar Patch, Doxology, and Buckingham Palace. These hill cabins are the only cabins left in camp that have not been rebuilt in the past ten years. Though they are still structurally sound and sturdy, over the years they have started looking pretty run down. The amount of graffiti that had accumulated over the decades had gotten to the point where it made the cabins feel old, dingy, and cluttered. The cabins have now received newly recovered interior walls and ceiling boards, new window trim and beams, updated bathrooms and shower areas, new cubby units, and resurfaced floors. The difference has been astonishing. The



*Buckingham Palace, before renovation*

renovated cabins feel bigger and brighter, though the footprints of the buildings remain the same.

Time was also taken in Doxology to change the floor plan of the cabin. The interior of the cabin was previously split into two sides of bunks with a bathroom in between. Campers and counselors of Doxology have complained for many years that this created two individual groups within the cabin, making it hard to bond as a cohesive cabin unit. By moving the location of the bathroom, the design will now be similar to the other hill cabins with a much more open floor plan. Hill cabin residents of the 2011 summer will feel like they have brand new cabins to enjoy!



*Buckingham Palace, after renovation*

## We're Looking for Doctors in the CMW Family!

Merrie-Woode has been very fortunate to have some of the finest doctors volunteer their time at camp each summer. We rely on our camp doctors and nurses to keep us healthy all summer long. We have a medical facility just 3 miles from camp, but it is important for us to have medical staff available to campers and staff on site.

Camp doctors are generally alumnae, parents, and grandparents from within the camp family who wish to volunteer for a week here at Merrie-Woode. The doctor of the week stays in High Heaven (CMW's guest lodge), with his/her family, and should be available for consultations with campers and staff. The doctor works closely with camp's registered nurses located in Cloud 9 (camp's infirmary). We welcome doctors of all specialties who enjoy working with children.

If you are a doctor and are interested in lending a hand next summer, please call or email Denice at the camp office (828-743-3300) or [denice@merriewoode.com](mailto:denice@merriewoode.com). We would love for you to join us beneath Old Bald!

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## Reaching the 2010 Annual Fund Goal!

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It's not too late to contribute to this year's Annual Fund! Our 2010 goal is \$100,000 and currently, we are just over \$71,000 in gifts to the Merrie-Woode Foundation. Your support helps to provide excellence in the camping experience; from staffing and programming, to facility improvements and camperships. This year, in light of the economic situation, Merrie-Woode has allotted additional funds to go towards the 2011 camperships. Camperships assist families in making the Merrie-Woode experience a reality for their girls each summer. All participants and a full report will be published in the spring 2011 newsletter.

Gifts to the Merrie-Woode Foundation are tax deductible for individuals, corporations and foundations within the limits of section 501(c) (3) of the IRS code. 2010 Annual Fund gifts can be mailed to **Camp Merrie-Woode, 100 Merrie-Woode Road, Sapphire, NC 28774** or given online using PayPal. Go to our website [www.merriewoode.com](http://www.merriewoode.com), then go to the Alumnae tab, scroll down to Annual Fund, and click "donate."

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## Guess Who is Joining the 2011 Drama Staff?!

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Since Jim and Denice's boys are out of the house, they have taken up a new hobby. That's right, Jim and Denice are trying out their acting skills, and rumor has it that they are quite talented.

The excitement began when Jim auditioned for Clarence Day's *Life With Father* at the Martin Lipscomb Performing Arts Center in Highlands, NC. The production is part of the Highlands community theater, and Jim thought it would be the best way to get a taste of theater. Though we all thought he would surely clench a leading role, Jim was assigned the "supporting" part of Dr. Sommers. We are pleased to announce that Jim was officially off book in one day, having perfected his single line ("How do you do?") in no time. Having nailed his part early in rehearsals, Jim soon added a second line ("Excuse me") to his already meaty performance. Not only is he an accomplished actor, but now he's trying his hand in script writing!

Within days after Jim's audition, the Director of *Life With Father* called Denice to offer her a cameo in the play. One of the maids quit the production so Denice joined in, as well. Though Denice does not have any lines, she is a crucial member of the cast. Denice's character, Delia, is responsible for helping the other maids set the tables for meals and bring tea to the more prominent characters. It is

quite a job! Luckily Denice's years of setting dining hall tables are paying off.

We can't wait to see the final production of *Life With Father* and look forward to the Dunns' next theatrical endeavor. And who knows, if we are short staffed in Drama this summer, maybe they will lend a hand!



## Exciting Changes to the Full Time Merrie-Woode Staff

As many of you may remember, Christina Daniels resigned as our Development and Programming Director at the beginning of this year to focus on her job at home of raising a family. After much thought and consideration, we are thrilled to announce that Lindsay Garner Hostetler has become our new Development and Alumnae Relations Director. Lindsay was a camper from 1993 through 1996. She began her Merrie-Woode career as a CA in 2000, and has been working year-round in the camp office for almost five years now. In addition to her new responsibilities in Development, she will continue to work with Alumnae Relations and the ongoing camp archiving project. Lindsay will also maintain her position as the director of camp's theatre program, a position she has held for eight years. We are excited to see Lindsay's role here at Merrie-Woode grow as she takes on this new challenge. The programming responsibilities will be distributed among the senior staff and a seasonal Programming Director will be appointed to assist during the summer months.



*Lindsay Garner Hostetler*

We are also delighted to announce the addition of a new member to our Facilities Crew. Jody Pressley joined the year round staff of Merrie-Woode before this past summer. Jody comes to us with years of experience working with construction and excavation equipment. The Pressleys have a long standing history with Camp Merrie-Woode.



*Jody Pressley*

Jody's brother, Cory, has been working on the Facilities Crew for the past four years. Their uncle, James Pressley, was the camp's caretaker from 1947 – 1972. Some of the projects James contributed to in camp were the building of Chapel, the stone pillars for the original camp gate, and the construction of Camelot and the big back line cabins. We are thrilled to have a new generation of Pressleys continue the family's legacy at Merrie-Woode.

## 2009-2010 Board of Trustees

Elizabeth (Liz) Counce Irwin  
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# Around Camp 2010



*The new Captains of 2010*



*The new Main Session Horsemasters of 2010 are welcomed by the current Horsemasters in camp*



*The King's Players of 2010*



*June Session campers enjoying some shade by the archery field*



*August Session campers at Captain Rainbow's dance party*



*The June Session Horsemasters of 2010*

## Retiring Board Members Replaced by Three New Members

At the Annual Meeting of the Merrie-Woode Foundation, Chairman Liz Counce Irwin and the Board of Trustees recognized three Board members who have completed their terms of outstanding service to the Merrie-Woode Foundation: George Pillow, who served as the Board's Treasurer, served on the Facilities Committee and was Chair of the Finance Committee; Vee Smith Chandler, who served on the Audit and Facilities Committees and was Chair of the Nominating Committee; and Adelaide Davenport Bratcher, who served on the Programming Committee and was Chair of the Development Committee. The Merrie-Woode family is grateful for their dedication and effort.

We welcome three newly elected Board Trustees: Melanie Halsey Crittenden, of Richmond, Virginia. Melanie is an alumna and assisted with camp's "Place of Rarest Beauty – *the final piece*" campaign. Her daughters Lindsay, Alexis, and Melanie have been campers, and Melanie's mother, sisters, cousins, and nieces have all attended Merrie-Woode. V. Larkin Martin, also an alumna, joins the Board from Courtland, Alabama. Larkin was a camper herself and her daughter, Virginia Thornton



*Vee Smith Chandler (61-65) and George Pillow at the Fall Board Meeting*

is a current camper in the Main session. Larkin's mother and sister also attended camp. The third new Board member is Brien Peterkin of Cashiers, North Carolina. Brien and his wife, alumna Sallie Orr Peterkin, daughter of Dottie and Fritz Orr, Jr. had two daughters who attended camp, Mary and Amanda. The Board of Trustees welcomes Melanie, Larkin, and Brien.

## Attention All Half-Wit Girls!

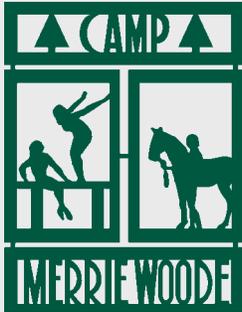
We often wonder where our favorite camp songs came from and why they are so popular around camp. Our favorites have funny titles and silly words; they include ridiculous hand motions and way too much repetition. And yet, we can't get enough of our camp songs!

Some of our songs are somewhat new to camp. They cropped up when campers and counselors took the initiative to teach us a new one at Castle. "Princess Pat," which was brought to us by beloved counselor Sloan Kass and "Bolling Green," from Doug Cameron, are both relatively new to camp tradition.

Other songs have been around longer than any current summer residents of Merrie-Woode can remember. During our 2010 Main Session, we had the special privilege of hearing Martha Simpkins Davis and Jill Crawford sing "Grays and Greens," which they adapted from "New Orleans." When they were preparing for banquet years ago, the ladies changed the words of Louis Armstrong's 1947 song to reflect campers' love for Merrie-Woode. It was a treat to hear how the song quickly became popular throughout camp, and after listening to "Grays and Greens," we started wondering about other songs in Merrie-Woode's collection.

Now it's your turn to tell us the story behind a camp song! We would love to hear what your favorite camp song is and how it came to be part of the Merrie-Woode repertoire. For example, tell us who was involved in writing a song for banquet or evening program. If you brought a song to camp and taught it to everyone, let us know where you learned it and why you decided to share it with Merrie-Woode. If we receive some interesting stories, we will publish them in the next newsletter for everyone to enjoy! So, keep singing those camp classics and contact us when you get a chance!

Post stories on our facebook page: Camp Merrie-Woode, The Merrie-Woode Foundation or email (lindsay@merriewood.com). You are always welcome to send us a good 'ole fashioned letter to: Camp Merrie-Woode, 100 Merrie-Woode Road, Sapphire, NC 28774.



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## Can't Think of the Perfect Gift for your Merrie-Woode Girl ...

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We are thrilled to assist with a few ideas. Our favorite idea is the Camp Merrie-Woode sterling silver pin. At the request of numerous alumnae, this retired CMW pin was commissioned for the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The CMW pin measures 1 ½ x 1" in dimension and is selling at a cost of \$150.00. This pin is available through camp.

If you are shopping for your favorite camper, we have Chug-A-Wump CDs, afghans, fleece blankets, Crazy Creeks, baseball caps, water bottles, frog pillows, and much more. We also have Merrie-Woode coffee mugs and travel mugs for your favorite alumna. Some of our smaller items make great stocking stuffers! Please contact Phyllis at 828-743-3300 or [Phyllis@merriewoode.com](mailto:Phyllis@merriewoode.com), she'll be happy to assist you.

