CAMP
MERRIE-WOODE
Situated, Celebrated on Fairfield Lake
Spring 2015

For All Those Who Have Loved It and Given It Their Best

1950s campers ready for some volleyball.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of our place of rarest beauty, the Development Committee of the Board of Trustees is underway with plans for what we hope will be a beautiful centennial book. Dorothy Moss Williams, former camper and Merrie-Woode Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustee, appointed Centennial Book Committee Chair said, "We envision a book that mothers, grandmothers, and granddaughters will share for generations; a book where beloved traditions and voices from past generations will be preserved in image and text. This illustrated history of Merrie-Woode will include a historical narrative, contextual timeline, archival and new photographs of camp, song lyrics, and excerpts and images from the Ripple."

Since Merrie-Woode's story has always come to life through the voices of all of those who have loved it and given it their best, we will animate the main narrative, written by Laurie Shock, of Shock Design Books, with illustrated essays by former and current Board members who have shaped the rich history of our camp. Lindsay Garner Hostetler will be Laurie's Research Assistant on this project. With her in depth knowledge of Merrie-Woode's history and her love of the rich traditions, she is an integral part of the development of this custom designed book.

Shock Design Books, based in Atlanta, is a specialty publishing firm with a focus on the individual treatment of each book. We have contracted Laurie Shock to work with us to design, edit, produce, and publish the finished product. Dorothy Moss Williams stated, "Laurie has worked on many similar publications, including histories of Ravenscroft School and Agnes Scott College,

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At Wit's End...

Greetings from camp! It certainly has been an exciting and busy off-season with too much snow across the country. Don't worry--spring is here, and summer is just around the corner! Camp didn't escape snow this winter. We had a few beautiful snowflake filled days, and we hope you enjoyed the pictures we posted. We are fortunate to have our intern, Emily, who among other talents, loves the snow experience and is very good with her camera.

We have seen many of you as we traveled throughout the Southeast this winter. Jim and I enjoyed our trip to San Francisco, where we were greeted by the many MW girls living on the west coast. Our alumnae gathering was hosted by Matt and Evie Smith Davis and their daughters Ava and Amanda. We also traveled to New Orleans for our National ACA conference and we were able to catch up with our campers at Richard and Mathilde Villere Currence's home where we had a pizza party. Afterward, we met our young alumnae in the Garden District. We all took to the road for our staff recruiting trips. We visited colleges where we have current counselors, and we met potential staff members during their visits. It is good to have Betsy back to spearhead our staff recruiting. We filled our staffing needs earlier than normal, and we are thrilled to have so many returning staff members for our 97th camp season.

The office is buzzing with activity. While you may have thought we were all consumed by the "Merrie-Woode Senior Staff Swag-Off," we really were hard at work on many assignments. We are charting the early preparations for the upcoming centennial book and celebration. We hired our new Development and Alumnae Relations Director, and we are excited to have Robin McKinney join the team in April. We continue the implementation of the Strategic Plan, which was adopted in 2012, and we have not missed a beat with our new Board Chair, Elizabeth Keenan Thompson. Liz Counce Irwin passed the torch to Elizabeth in November, and Elizabeth has been vigorously marching the Board and staff forward on the road to our strategic goals.

The facilities crew has been working hard this winter and spring. They are finishing the renovations to the Dining Hall, and they are making a few much needed improvements to our Inn Site building and Welcome Lodge before the summer. They continue to work on the long maintenance list that exists at our 97 year old camp! The spring will continue to be full of activity at camp as we all prepare for the summer camp season and our Mother and Daughter Weekend in May.

While we are very busy at camp, we have been busy on the personal level too. A big "Shout Out" to Jim, who completed his self-proclaimed "first and last" full marathon in Asheville. We enjoyed our weekend at the Biltmore Estate where the race was run. Delight in all of your spring activities, and we look forward to seeing many of you this summer along Lake Fairfield's shore.

Chug a Wump!

Denice and Jim

Staff News

We love hearing what neat things our staff is doing all over the country and the world! Keep the news coming, and we'll see you this summer! **Tee Bowers** is enjoying life in Colorado. He has been working at Swedish Medical Center in Denver in their Center for Wound Healing. Tee spends nearly every weekend in the mountains skiing and looks forward to raft guiding again on the Arkansas River this summer. In March, **Jim Dunn** completed the Asheville Marathon at Biltmore Estate where he

Della Woodward *and* ***Stuart Bowers*** *enjoying a sunny day on the waterfront*

and **Denice** met up with **Rachel Garrett** and **Eliza Williams**, who both ran the half marathon. It was a whole Merrie-Woode day with a cheering section made up of Denice, **Bradley Dunn**, **Libby Greenberg**, and **Bolling Winborne**! Congrats to Jim, Rachel, and Eliza on your big accomplishment! Greg and **Martha Cole Dyer** traveled for two weeks through Ireland in August where they caught up with former staff member **Shauna Harrison**! They had such a good trip that they are already planning their return! At Clemson, **Corinne Foster** is keeping busy by volunteering at a 1820s cabin on campus. She opens the cabin to visitors and helps with special programs. Additionally, Corinne is enjoying her seminar class about the historical context of Downton Abbey. She finds the information really interesting and never expected to watch TV for homework! New Merrie-Woode staff member **Jane-Ashe Gailmard** recently took her horse to her first show ever, which was a combined test with dressage and stadium jumping. Not only did she take first place but also went home with a championship ribbon! After the summer of 2014, **Peyton Hall** moved back to her home state of Louisiana, where she accepted her first full-time job at the Louisiana Department of Justice. Having graduated from UNC-A, **Julia Haman** works as an elementary Spanish teacher at a school in Asheville. She loves her work but looks forward to her upcoming road trip through South America. Julia will be traveling and working throughout the continent and is excited to become truly fluent in Spanish. Plus, it will help her teach a culture that she has experienced first-hand! **Ella Janvier** just got back from a 10 day sailing trip in the British Virgin Islands. It was great to put the skills she learned on the CMW waterfront to use in the real world! In her senior year at UNC-Chapel Hill, **Katie Martinez** is looking forward to moving to Orlando, FL where she will be working as a financial analyst with the Walt Disney World Resort. Recently, Katie spent the weekend in Vail, CO, where she ran into Tate and Olivia Barbieri! After a long college application process, **Rachel Rich** recently found out that she was accepted to Rollins College for the fall of 2015. Rollins is Rachel's first choice, so she is thrilled with this news. Congratulations, Rachel! After a number of years teaching and working at Summit Charter School in Cashiers, NC, **Ingrid Weatherby** recently left for a new job at East Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, NC. She is excited about this

Rachel Garrett *and* ***Bolling Winborne***

Carrie Schlemmer, MacKinsey Cole*, and* ***Gracie Wiener*** *goofing around*

Elly Straske *and* ***Mary Nobles Hancock*** *all dressed up for evening program*

Jane-Ashe Gailmard *with her horse at a recent show.*

Claire Woodall *doing her dairy rotation for vet school in England*

Rachel Garrett, Eliza Williams, Bradley Dunn, Denice Dunn, Bolling Winborne*, and* **Libby Greenberg** *at the Asheville Marathon.*

new opportunity, and we wish her luck! Just down the road from Merrie-Woode, **Vivian Weatherby** is enjoying her new job with the Boys and Girls Club of the Plateau. She is the program leader and power hour coordinator for the 4th and 5th graders, while also lending a hand with communications and PR. During her Easter break, **Claire Woodall** was busy working her dairy placement in Hertfordshire, England for vet school. We hope we will see Claire for a visit this summer!

For All Those Who Have Loved It... (cont. from page 1)

Founder, Dammie Day, addresses campers and counselors.

and we were immediately struck by her sensitivity to the history of Merrie-Woode." Laurie has already visited camp on several occasions and has been working in the archives to review the rich visual history preserved there. Laurie will work with our alumnae essayists to ensure a thoughtfully edited text that balances individual voices with the broader historical narrative.

"In terms of the style, it is our hope that the writers will be lyrical and descriptive, making the stories enjoyable to the reader and helping to place them in the moment in time they are reading about." Dorothy continued, "We want to convey the rich history in a lyrical way to draw the reader in and keep them reading, as opposed to sentences listing dates, people, and situations." Dorothy and Laurie are thrilled by the positive response they have received from the alumnae writers. The beautiful centennial book will be available in late 2017, with pre-orders being placed in late 2016!

Alumnae News

Pattie Gabbert Glassick (97-06), Rosemary Williams Anderson (92-05), Carolyn Gabbert Estopinal (97-05) *with her son, James, and* ***Catherine Avery Warfield (94-06),*** *with her son, James.*

Thanks to all of our alum who contacted us to tell us what new things you are up to. We love hearing all of your news! While in California this November, Denice and Jim spent a lovely evening with Erik and **JoJo Allen Bedford (90-97)** and their three children. JoJo's birthday was on the day of the San Francisco party, and she was gracious enough to invite us over to her home in Yountville earlier that week. We can't wait to welcome JoJo's daughter to Camp in a few years! The Boyette girls are doing well at NC State. **Anna Boyette (06-08)** is a senior studying Mechanical Engineering, while **Emily Boyette (06-09)** is a junior studying textiles. In Knoxville, TN,

Jim Dunn, Gordon Strayhorn (90-02), JoJo Allen Bedford (90-97), *Erik Bedford, baby Kirsten Bedford,* ***Denice Dunn, and Laurie Turner Strayhorn (76-02)*** *in Yountville, CA.*

Lydia Dorsey Carmody (95-02) and her husband, Stephen, enjoy chasing their two year old, Maddie. Hopefully Maddie will be a Merrie-Woode camper in a few years! If having a toddler isn't enough, Lydia also keeps busy in graduate school at UT-Knoxville. Lydia's sister, **Lainey Dorsey (95-01)** is a graduate student at Wake Forest

Howard Brown Millican (61-63), Linda Brown Roseberry (64), Ruffin Brown Waldron (65-69), Reid Leavitt Willingham (88-91), Caroline Brown (01-06), *Anne Brown, and Dudley Carlson spending the weekend at Merrie-Woode in September.*

University. Current camper **Libby Carter (10-present)** ran into **Logan McArthur (11-present)** at a Leap Dance competition recently. The girls were so excited to see each other and watch each other perform. Both girls won awards and enjoyed talking about their

Emily Pittman Funderburk (87-01), Jenn Hobby Rivera (88-95), Ainsley Hines Santa Barbara (87-98), Elizabeth Dempsey Merritt (88-98), Catherine Carr (87-95), Evelyn Simmons Kissel (88-95), Sarah Nash Bumpas (87-98), and Kelley Landry Doiron (88-2000).

Millie Cobb Carr (45-46) *and* ***Ella Carr (08-present)*** *share a laugh and hug.*

upcoming summer at camp. **Ashley Helmick (97-12)** reports that she started a new job in November and was elected the President of the Jacksonville Clemson Club. She is enjoying planning parties, service events, and staying connected to the University. **Siri Hiltz (07-08)** received her Master of Library and Information Science in 2011 from the University of British Columbia. Since 2013 she has been working in Sacramento, CA as a Youth Services Librarian with Sacramento Public Library. In her branch, Siri is the Teen Librarian. She runs a Teen Advisory Board (TAB), teen book club, teen writers club, teens create program, and an adult program called Radical Home Ec. She is also one of the advising librarians for the system teen advisory board (STAB). This past year they put

Libby Carter (10-present) *and* ***Logan McArthur (11-present)*** *at a recent dance competition.*

Susan Clarkson Turner (91-00) *with her husband, James, and baby, Milly, for a visit to Merrie-Woode this fall.*

on a Harry Potter-themed Yule Ball. Siri gathered her inspiration from CMW Harry Potter events! Chris and **Carolyn Gabbert Estopinal (97-05)**, along with baby James, will be moving to Ann Arbor, MI in July so that Chris can complete a Cornea Fellowship at the University of Michigan.The Captains of 1994 spent a weekend in October at High Heaven for their annual get together. This year's group included ***Emily Pittman Funderburk (87-01), Jenn Hobby Rivera (88-95), Ainsley Hines Santa Barbara (87-98), Elizabeth Dempsey Merritt (88-98), Catherine Carr (87-95), Evelyn Simmons Kissel (88-95), Sarah Nash Bumpas (87-98), and Kelley Landry Doiron (88-00).*** They had a great time reconnecting at camp and look forward to their

Bobby and ***Avery Harrelson Jones' (84-99)*** *children, Thompson (age 9), William (age 5), and Oakley the dog.*

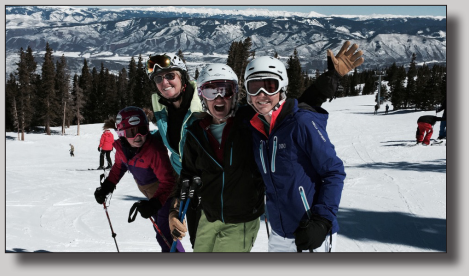
Members of Briar Patch (Main Session 2014) got together in New Orleans recently for a reunion.

next visit! At UNC-Chapel Hill, **Liz McKee (01-07)** is busy as a philosophy major, minoring in environmental studies and Spanish. Liz's sister, **Rebecca McKee (01-06)** graduated from Davidson in May 2014 with a degree in environmental science. After 41 years of teaching and assessing deaf, visually impaired, intellectually disabled, autistic, and multihandicapped children, **Gray McKenzie (62-67)** retired in May 2012. Gray often thinks fondly about her days at camp and still sleeps on her Merrie-Woode pillowcases! **Howard Brown Millican (61-63), Linda Brown Roseberry (64), Ruffin Brown Waldron (65-69), Reid Leavitt Willingham (88-91), Caroline Brown (01-06)**, Anne Brown, and Dudley Carlson spent a weekend together at High Heaven this past fall.

Merrie-Woode Board Members, ***Dockery Clark (70-75)*** *and* ***Betsy Hamilton Verner (76-90)*** *with* ***Sallie Orr Peterkin (69-78)*** *and Brien Peterkin with* ***Fritz Orr III's (94-05)*** *handmade pizza peel.*

Jane Pope Waters (82-91), Talbot Waters (11-present), Annie B Waters (13)*, Mathille Waters,* ***Katie Paul (13-present)****, and* ***Suzanne More Paul (85-93)*** *skiing in Snowmass, CO.*

They enjoyed hiking, laughing, doing a camp scavenger hunt, swimming in Lake Fairfield, and worshipping together in Chapel. It was a great weekend that will be remembered for years to come! Jacob and **Donnell Turner Oakley (88-98)** are keeping busy in Brooklyn, NY, where they have lived since 2002. Donnell keeps busy teaching dance and pilates while also working as a dancer for two contemporary dance companies, Doug Elkins and Chavasse Dance and Performance. On top of dancing throughout New York and across the country, Donnell's work has taken her to Canada, France, Beijing, and Italy! Donnell loves living in NYC because of the diverse food and culture, but she says she's still a camp girl at heart! We hope Donnell and Jacob will come for a visit to WNC soon! In honor



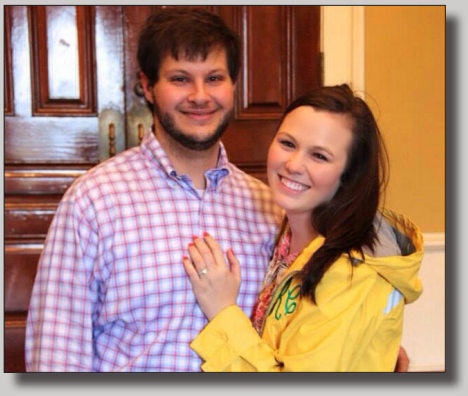
Katie Paul (13-present), Jane Pope Waters (82-91), Wing Watson Billeisen (83-97), *and* ***Suzanne More Paul (85-93)*** *skiing in Snowmass, CO.*

of his nephew, Brien's, hard work at local Cashiers restaurant, Slab Town Pizza, **Fritz Orr III (94-05)** presented Brien with a very special Christmas gift! Using the same techniques and wood that he uses for his well-known and loved canoe paddles, Fritz created a beautiful one of a kind pizza peel for Brien that is displayed proudly on Slab Town Pizza's wall. What a lovely and meaningful gift, Fritz! After extensive travels, **Lauren Thomas (96-11)** has finally landed! LT is living in Tasmania, Australia where she is starting her own business. Avocado Moon will brew small batch, wildly fermented, locally sourced kombucha to be sold at the local market. Lauren is very excited about this new endeavor, and we wish her lots of luck! We were glad to see James and **Susan Clarkson Turner (91-00)** for a quick visit to camp this fall. The best part was that they brought their future Merrie-Woode girl, Lucile Miller Turner with them! Baby Milly is absolutely adorable!

CMW Marriages and Engagements

***Peyton Hall (14)** and Mark Howe will be married in November 2015.*

Meredith Ashcraft (94-07) married Jonathan Schulz on October 22, 2014 and reside in Charlotte, NC where Meredith works as a nurse. **Sara Bates (00)** married Galen King on July 12, 2014 at Lonesome Valley in Sapphire, NC. **Nellie Black (94-00)** is excited about her upcoming wedding on April 18, 2015! **Grayson Davis (97-07)** is looking forward to her upcoming nuptials to Evan Pierce in New Orleans, LA on April 18, 2015. 2014 Staff member, **Peyton Hall (14)**, is engaged to Mark Howe. Their wedding is scheduled for November 7, 2015 in Watson, LA. We recently heard that **Ellie Lee (10-12)** is engaged to Jack Tate, and they are planning a wedding in Charleston, SC for fall of 2016! **Megan McCall (01-12)** is marrying Alex App on June 6, 2015 in her hometown of Louisville, KY. **Kelsie Romaine (03-12)** is engaged to Michael Harding. Michael proposed on December 6, 2014 at the couple's alma mater, Mercer University. The wedding is scheduled for December 19, 2015 in Monroe, Georgia at The Engine Room at Monroe Cotton Mills. **Katherine Wade (93-03)** married Robert Smith Longsworth II on October 4, 2014 in New York



***Kelsie Romaine (03-12)** and fiancé, Michael Harding*

City. Merrie-Woode alumna, **Jennifer Bayard (97-03)** was in attendance at the wedding. Katherine and Rob got engaged while visiting camp on Labor Day weekend in 2013!

***Hayden Bates (06)**, Tucker Bates, **Sara Bates King (00)**, Galen King, Thomas Bates, and Lisa Bates.*

CMW Births

So many Merrie-Woode babies to report this year! **Rosemary Williams Anderson (92-05)** and her husband, Tim, are expecting a baby girl in mid-August. Their son, Timmy, recently turned three years old, and the family moved into a new house. Life is busy for the Andersons these days! Steve and **Kristi Snyder Costa (85-00)** welcomed a baby girl in June! Her name is Kelly Claire, and they are positively in love with her! Joe and **Ashley Garner Dringo's (95-07)** daughter was born October 24, 2014. Baby Amelia June is happy and

*Joe and **Ashley Garner Dringo's (95-07)** baby girl, Amelia June Dringo*

healthy and enjoying life in New Hampshire. Chris and **Carolyn Gabbert Estopinal (97-05)** welcomed their son, James Robert on November 19, 2014. James weighed 7 pounds and was 19.5 inches long. Carolyn's

*Chris and **Carolyn Gabbert Estopinal's (97-05)** son, James Robert Estopinal.*

*David and **Lee Hadlow Halloran's (91-00)** boys, James and baby Charlie.*

sister, **Pattie Gabbert Glassick (97-06)** and her husband, Andy, are looking forward to meeting their baby girl this May! David and **Lee Hadlow Halloran (91-00)** welcomed their second son, Charles (Charlie) Michael, on February 17, 2015. Charlie joins his two year old brother, James. The Hallorans currently live in Boston, MA. Andrew and **Lydia Pound Harrell's (96-13)** baby girl, Wesley Golden, arrived on March 16, 2015. Wesley was 9 pounds, 7 ounces. Robby and **Betsy Duckett Harris (94-05)** got a big surprise in October when their twins, Tripp and Liza, arrived over two months early! Both babies are happy and healthy, despite their early arrival! After settling back into life in New Orleans, Gabriel and **Jessica Harkness Nehrbass (96-08)** are looking forward to the arrival of their daughter in May!

***Lydia Pound Harrell's (96-13)** daughter, Wesley Golden Harrell*

*Bobby and **Betsy Duckett Harris' (94-05)** son, Tripp.*

*Bobby and **Betsy Duckett Harris' (94-05)** daughter, Liza.*

Jackson and **Elissa McCarty Oliver's (95-03)** Merrie-Woode girl, Josephine 'Josie' Lear, arrived on February 6, 2015. She was 8 pounds and 20.5 inches long.

*Jackson and **Elissa McCarty Oliver (95-03)** with baby Josephine "Josie" Lear Oliver.*

Rediscovering the Merrie-Woode Spirit on the Appalachian Trail

Mollie Murray (93-07) *and her partner, John, with their dogs at the start of the Appalachian Trail.*

By: Mollie Murray

When I set out to hike the Appalachian Trail last spring, my mother hugged me and waved goodbye much like she had when dropping me off at Merrie-Woode years earlier.

Though I wasn't skipping off to reunite with friends on the shores of Lake Fairfield, I was taking the first steps of an adventure that was born beneath the friendly, scarred face of Old Bald.

In the company of my partner, John, and our two dogs, I walked under a stone arch in Amicalola Falls State Park in northern Georgia. My mother's goodbyes were hard to hear over the ruckus of our dogs, Alaskan huskies who communicate primarily through howls.

Mollie Murray (93-07) *on the Appalachian Trail*

I'd struggled to explain to people why, at twenty-eight, I had to hike a 2,100-mile footpath that stretched from Georgia to Maine. The attempt to defend my hike reminded me of the struggle I'd felt toward the end of my high school years and on into college when I'd chosen to return to camp each summer.

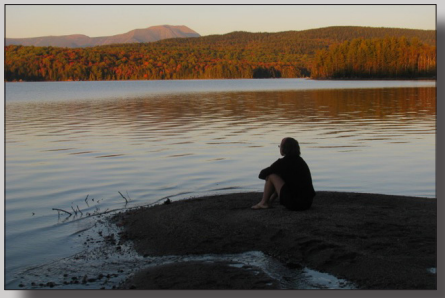
"You want to go to a place where there aren't any boys?" friends would ask, dumbfounded. "No phones? No soft drinks? No pool or air conditioning?" Later, the questions got perhaps a little more serious – "Shouldn't you be doing an internship? Thinking about a real job?" They still didn't keep me from going back to camp.

As I was preparing for my thru-hike, gathering together stove, socks, boots and books, I came across a blog post by Merrie-Woode's JP Bevilaqua titled, "Advocating for Adventure." Now, I've never met JP, but judging by his association with the best camp in the world, I will go ahead and assume he's awesome.

JP wrote that adventure means taking risks. He wrote about the discomfort of stepping into the unknown, and how this discomfort leads to both personal and communal growth.

His post helped me realize that my desire to hike the AT had grown out of something I learned at camp: that the simple challenges of being outdoors teach us how to grow up without giving up.

I could tell you that we strolled through the sunny woods, that I taught John all the Merrie-Woode songs I knew and that, when the hiking got rocky or one of us went ahead with the dogs, we used the Boowhoop! system to keep track of each other. While this is all true (it may also be true that I didn't allow John to sing songs from his Boy Scout camp), it won't give you the whole picture.



Mollie Murray (93-07) *) enjoying the view on the AT*

The rest of the truth is that we didn't know how our hike would turn out. We didn't know if we would succeed, or if we would even learn anything all that special if we did. Sometimes, the people and places we encountered amazed and inspired us, and other times we were left wondering why we were even on the trail.

Obsessing about the final outcome of a six-month hike is a little like obsessing over whether or not you'll make it to heaven. The journey is the important part, and deciding to make the journey brings you to a place outside of your comfort zone.

Mollie Murray (93-07) *and John at the summit of Katahdin in Maine*

In this uncomfortable and different place, you stretch and grow and learn to be a better you.

In the midst of our busy lives, in the face of interviews, deadlines, and grocery stores, it's easy to lose touch with the little girl who believed in the magic of summer camp. On the Appalachian Trail, I found her. She knows how to look for the beauty that surrounds her, whether hidden in a fragile landscape or on the faces of her fellow travelers. She knows the power of simple friendship.

It's been nearly six months since John and I reached the top of Katahdin and descended into Maine woods that were bursting with fall color. What I remember is not a moment of personal glory, but a sense of shared accomplishment.

On our way back down the mountain, we hugged and high-fived with friends who were still on their way up. We all knew something that our triumphant pictures at the summit didn't reveal: we were part of a community that had made our success possible.

John and I were both floored by the kindness we encountered on the AT. Those fellow travelers who did not have friends and family supporting them at home found support on the trail itself, from past hikers and complete strangers.

One of the most important parts of adventuring is that it makes you vulnerable. You simply can't surround yourself with familiar, comfortable things if you are carrying all of your supplies for the next week on your back. Or if you are at a summer camp with girls you've never met before.

When I look back to my time at Merrie-Woode, I don't smile and tear up because I performed in the camp musical or because I finished the boating program. My eyes burn and my heart yearns because camp introduced me to a community based on friendship and adventure. Dammie Day and Ruth said it best: *God of the hills, grant me thy strength to go back to the cities without faltering. Strength to help my neighbor who has no hills to remember…*

When the Girls of Merrie-Woode Gather Anywhere…

San Francisco looked beautiful for our alum gathering!

This particular time, anywhere happened to be in San Francisco, CA. Matt and Evie Smith Davis were kind enough to open their beautiful home to roughly forty campers, alumnae, and Merrie-Woode family members. It was a magical evening of reminiscing, storytelling, and visiting with old friends. It was heartwarming to hear of school accomplishments, careers, geographic relocations, and soon to be driver's licenses, graduations, and weddings. As surrogate "camp parents," we listen and feel the same pride as if these were our very own daughters. Boo Tyler Kennedy and Tyler Kennedy traveled from Houston, TX to attend the event and visit with the Davis family for the weekend. The food was terrific and the selections paid

Yum! Chicken and waffles!

Campers enjoy getting together in the "real world."

Jim catches up with Matt Davis, father of Eva Davis.

Boo Kennedy, Evie Davis, Gabrey Means, and her daughter, Lilli, join us in San Francisco!

A big group came together to celebrate their Merrie-Woode connection.

tribute to the South. Our favorites were the miniature Chicken and Waffle appetizers and small bites of Brownie Pie. It has been a joy for us to travel around the country and co-host these Merrie-Woode family events. With the Centennial celebration only a few years away, it's exciting to see the growing enthusiasm and support, making sure Merrie-Woode is around to serve young women for another 100 years.

Gabrey Means, her daughter, Lilli, Amanda Barry, her daughter, Campbell O'Neal, Emma Radin, and Stephanie Gross Julian give us their best Merrie-Woode smiles!

Carolina Moon, I'm Pining for More Dining Room

New addition to the Dining Hall will provide more room and a new home for the counselor coffee station!

The Dining Hall, one of camp's remaining original buildings, is in need of both maintenance and expansion. It's been a number of years since any significant work was done on the building, and the structure needs plenty of attention. Additionally, as camp's enrollment remains strong, we see the need for extra space for seating during meals.

To solve the maintenance issues, rotten siding is being replaced and additional electrical service is being added. The whole building is also getting a fresh coat of paint and a new roof! To address the space constraints, the front of the

building is being bumped out onto the stone porch. The fireplace will remain intact, but additional space behind it will reduce overcrowding during meals. The extra space will make room for two additional tables, as well as space for the counselor coffee station and one salad bar.

The Dining Hall is an important building to campers and staff alike. With the new improvements, we look forward to enjoying it for many more years to come.

The new addition will have space for the salad bar, the counselor coffee station, as well as two additional tables.

View from the Dining Hall side closer to the hand washing station.

View from the side closer to Table 1.

Looking into the new addition, past the existing fireplace.

Robin McKinney Returns to Merrie-Woode!

Our new Development Director, Robin McKinney, and her dog, Tajar.

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we announce our newest CMW Senior Staff member Robin McKinney. She will join the team in late April as our new Director of Development and Alumnae Relations. Given Robin's history as a former camper, 1996 Captain, and former counselor, along with owning a dog named Tajar, it wasn't a matter of ***if*** Robin would someday work at Merrie-Woode, but ***when***.

Robin attended Davidson College before getting her Juris Doctorate at the University of Florida's Levin College of Law in 2004. She has been a practicing attorney in Florida since 2004 with a focus on local government law. Like other members of the Senior Staff who have moved into camp administration from other professional fields (engineering, education, computer science, marine ecology), Robin is very excited about bringing her unique talents to this very important position.

Robin has made a practice of being involved in her community through the Junior League and a variety of other worthwhile charitable organizations. Through these experiences, she found that she enjoyed development work and realized what a difference her efforts were making in her community. The fulfillment she received from the charitable work she has done led her to pursue this opportunity in development at the camp that she loves so much. Robin enjoys playing tennis, paddling, hiking, the outdoors, and her dog Tajar, of course.

She will be responsible for planning and managing the fundraising and development efforts of the Foundation in accordance with the Strategic Plan, including the coordination of major elements of the Centennial with primary responsibility for Centennial events scheduled for the summer of 2018! Join us in sending out a big Boo Whoop and Merrie-Woode welcome to Robin!

3rd CMW Father and Daughter Weekend

Merrie-Woode is happy to announce our 3rd Father and Daughter Weekend! The success of this event has led to plans to continue this new tradition. Just as the leaves begin to change, Merrie-Woode dads and their daughters will arrive at camp to sleep in cabins, engage in meaningful conversations, and enjoy adventurous activities throughout the weekend. The weekend is structured to let the daughters take the lead in every aspect and each moment focuses on strengthening communication between the fathers and their daughters. After an energetic afternoon, the MW fathers and daughters will gather in the Campfire Ring for a night with camp songs, s'mores, and Tajar Tales!

Calling all Merrie-Woode fathers and daughters!

Join us for our 2015 CMW Father & Daughter Weekend!
September 25 - 27, 2015

$550 per Father/Daughter pair, $110 per additional daughter
Fees include all meals and cabin lodging.

This event is designed for Merrie-Woode girls of all camp generations and their dads. The only requirement is that one person in your party must be a CMW alumna or current camper.

Sign up early! Space is limited to 100 people. Reserve your spot today on the CMW website!
www.merriewoode.com/camp-programs/off-season-programming/

CMW Internship Program - Apply Now!

Are you passionate about Camp Merrie-Woode? Have you ever wondered if there was a way to extend summer employment into the colorful fall, snowy winter, and into the blooming spring months along Lake Fairfield? There just may be a way: apply for an internship at camp. The Merrie-Woode Internship Program is designed to help promote and support camp's Mission and Strategic Plan moving forward. This program is mutually beneficial to the camp community and the intern as she learns more about the off-season workings of the camp and a nonprofit business.

If you are in college or if you have recently graduated and you are interested in learning more about the Merrie-Woode Internship Program, please contact **Denice Dunn at denice@merriewoode.com**. We are now accepting resumes for our 2015/2016 internship position. Come be a part of our administrative team and learn more about the inner workings of camp.

Staff Leadership Retreat Was a Success!

After a long day of discussion and decision-making, the whole crew set the timer on the selfie camera.

After a quiet start to the New Year, Merrie-Woode's year-round team spent a busy weekend in January with some of Merrie-Woode's summer staff members at this year's Staff Leadership Retreat. What a good weekend it was! The attendees represented the Adventure Programs, Performing Arts, as well as Traditional Programs. Activity heads, line heads, and individuals who will serve in leadership roles this summer were also present. When all was said and done, we hosted 17 counselors and 2 current Board Members at High Heaven for productive meetings, good food, and plenty of fun!

The weekend started with old and new friends gathering at High Heaven for dinner on Friday night. We celebrated the start of a New Year and being back together at camp. It was an evening full of laughter, reminiscing, and reconnection.

Saturday was quite busy, with our first meeting starting at 8:30am and our last one ending around 6:00 in the evening! Each meeting was focused on a different camp-related topic, allowing us to explore ideas in-depth before moving to the next item. All of the day's meetings produced fruitful discussion and creative problem solving that will take Merrie-Woode into the future.

At the end of a long day, everyone rallied at the Dunns' house for dinner. In true Merrie-Woode style, the evening's costume theme was Taylor Swift's "1989," and many of us participated to the fullest! Some people dressed up as song titles or lyrics from the album, while

Bridget Oliver, Katie Ryan, Adrienne Rich, Kara Leigh Pulley, Jordan Johnson, and Anna Mans are all smiles at the Taylor Swift/1989-themed party!

Ivory Sparks hangs out with board members, Elizabeth Keenan Thompson and Melanie Crittenden.

others embraced big hair and spandex and dressed as if the year was still 1989—not 2015! It was a great way to celebrate the end of a busy weekend, as many of us had to leave early the next morning.

Although the weekend was short and passed quickly, we loved hearing the staff's feedback and sharing an important aspect of Merrie-Woode with Melanie Halsey Crittenden and Elizabeth Keenan Thompson, our two enthusiastic Board participants. Thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to share their ideas with us as we focus on Merrie-Woode's continued success for future generations of campers and counselors!

"Walking in a Winter Wonderland"

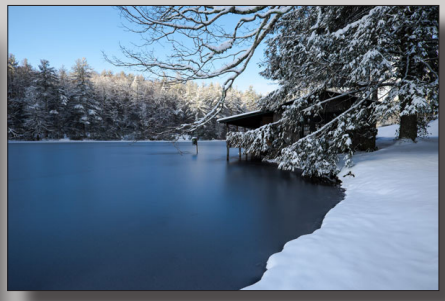
Time for the swim eval.

By: Emily Rich

Being from Florida means many things; you learn quickly how to avoid dangerous wildlife (sharks, gators, snakes, etc.) and how to survive certain natural catastrophes (hurricanes, sunburns, wearing Spanish Moss like a wig and getting chiggers, etc.). One thing it never means is a familiarity with winter. During my first week here, the wind chill got down to -12 degrees (Fahrenheit). Winter and I are acquainted now.

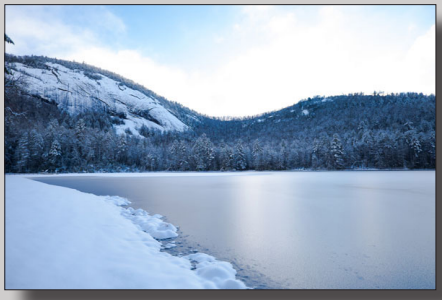
It didn't stay quite that cold for long, though, and I've grown accustomed to the weather (when the weather report says it'll be above 40, I think, "oh, it's going to be warm today!" This is my life now.). I'm also happy to say that my wishes for a snow came true (twice!), and I went sledding for the first time under the expert tutelage of Owen, master of sledding in these parts.

Snow turns the familiar greens and greys to blues and whites. Everything becomes so still and quiet; it's hard to believe you aren't the first to discover this place of rarest beauty. This is particularly true when you are the first to disturb the fresh snow. This could be the best place to experience a first winter. I certainly wouldn't have had it any other way.



It turns out going to take pictures of the fresh, unplowed snow is very good motivation to wake up early.

Now the snow's melted and the spring is well on its way. As the warmer days arrive, the anticipation for summer grows. Sleds will be replaced with slip 'n slides. The still and quiet will be replaced with laughter and singing. The greens and greys will return to their full glory. I can't wait.



There's no view in camp quite as beautiful as this one in any season.

2014 Annual Fund Tops Our Goal!

We have outstanding news to report regarding our 2014 Annual Fund Campaign. With the tremendous success we have seen in our Annual Fund over the last few years, we increased the 2014 goal to $150,000. Last year, 838 participants contributed a total of $198,424.22 to the Merrie-Woode Annual Fund, and we surpassed our goal!

Merrie-Woode alumnae, parents, and friends continue to support our Annual Giving effort. In addition to our traditional campaign, we hosted our first ever "Young Alum Challenge" on social media. In October, we challenged our young CMW alumnae to give $5,500 to the Annual Fund in 55 hours. This represented the cost of a campership in the 2015 Main Session. We were thrilled to see that our young alumnae were up to the challenge! In 55 hours they gave a total of $8,405. This is enough money to send one camper to 2015 Main Session, and almost enough to send another camper to the June Session!

As a nonprofit organization, Merrie-Woode relies on the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund supports the operations of camp, the programming, staffing, and facilities. It also ensures camperships, a scholarship fund that provides financial assistance to many camp families and to young women who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend summer camp.

All contributions 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. Gifts are listed through December 31, 2014. Please contact us with any errors or omissions.

2014 Annual Fund *(Reflects gifts received through December 31, 2014)*

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