

CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS

P.O. Box 22038 ♦ Lexington, KY 40522-2038
 calumnae@windstream.net ♦ www.ridgecrestcamps.com/ccalumnae



Boys' camp has had one of these for years, but Crestridge will have its very own Blob this summer! Thanks to your gifts to the CCAF Special Projects fund, a Blob that will fit in our lake has been purchased and will be ready to bounce campers into the water this summer. Now Crestridgers won't have to make the trek over to boys' camp for this unnerving but thrilling experience.

(Photos from www.the-blob.com.)

Alumnae Board

Johnnie Armstrong, *ex officio*
 Paulette May Basham
 Toni Duke Branyon
 Ruth Burkett
 Susan Cheatham, *president-elect*
 Anja Aloia Cleveland

Kara Belcher Cooley, *secretary*
 Ana Quattlebaum Gibbs
 Ellen Parker Gaffney, *president*
 Susan McFerrin Nielsen
 Kappi Brown Pierce

Lydia Taylor Pierce
 Marva Rawlings, *ex officio*
 Jean Jones Richards
 Lisa Rudolph Turner
 Susan Bridger Waggener,
treasurer, ex officio

A Charter Starter Camper's Story

By Maggie Cooley

My favorite part of Crestridge was being in the dining hall and standing on our chairs and singing. I liked the bunk beds. I was on the top bunk. My counselor, Elizabeth, braided my hair every day. I really liked getting my green honor band at Council of Progress. I have it hanging in my bedroom at home and it reminds me of Crestridge. Sock war was very, very fun. The funniest part of camp was watching my Mommy fall off the Blob! I can't wait to go back to Crestridge for two weeks next summer—I will turn 8 at camp!

A Starter Camper's Mom's Story

By Kara Belcher Cooley

It was wonderful to be back at Crestridge for a week. What a blessing! Starter camp was a great way to introduce young girls to Crestridge. I was amazed at the lack of tears! I was expecting to be a substitute Mommy for homesick campers, but I was able to be a "lodge lady" in lots of interesting ways! I helped sort the mail, drove a camper to the ER at 10 p.m. (everything ended up OK), helped Mr. Joe haul away trash, and answered the phone.

I didn't realize how much the new campers pick up by watching older campers. The first day of camp, no one was playing 4 square—we had to teach them how to play! Imagine Crestridge without 4 square! The lifeguards said that free swim was never so popular. It was unusually hot for camp. It was really neat to see that although Crestridge has changed over the years, the true spirit of Crestridge was there all around us! A counselor shared with me that her cabin devotions were lasting up to an hour because the girls were asking so many questions about Jesus. God was definitely working on many hearts that week. On the first night at camp, Maggie looked at me and said, "Momma, have you been waiting for me to go to Crestridge my whole life?" I laughed and said, "well ... yes!"

MEMORY CORNER: Crestridge Cabins

By Susan Cheatham

The door creaks, opens, then slams shut! The wood sways and dips from years of campers spreading their wings, trying to discover who they really are as growing girls.

Can you imagine what the cabins at Camp Crestridge would say if they could talk? All of the girls who have stepped on those steps. The sounds of the night. The songs they sang during devotion time.

If the wood had eyes, what would it have seen? The bunks could tell you about late-night conversations, prayers, laughter, tears, and life-changing decisions that were made.

The anticipation of all of the girls coming back in the cabin—and everything is right with the world. Think of the campers/counselors sitting on the steps—discussing a problem, being challenged during C.P. talk, discussing some life

-changing question.

Wouldn't it be amazing if these cabins could see, speak, hear and feel all of the experiences from the years past?

Your cabin is part of your identity at camp. It is rank, honor, and pride! Regardless of where it is located or what color, it remains a true part of your Crestridge experience.

In Memoriam:

Our thoughts and prayers go to Johnnie Armstrong and Lee Ann Babson, whose sister and mother respectively, Jewel Babson, passed away Jan. 26 in Nashville. Lee Ann was a camper in the '60s.

Also, Susan Cheatham and Karla Cheatham Tarkington's father, Charles Davis Cheatham, passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 6 in Arkansas.

Donations in memory of Mrs. Babson and Mr. Cheatham have been made to the CCAF Scholarship Fund by CCAF.

Fall Board Meeting Highlights

Our fall meeting was held at The Summit in Fort Payne, Ala., in October. Many thanks to the Lifeshape Foundation, led by Trudy Cathy White, for allowing us to use their beautiful facility to host our semi-annual meeting.

Marva Rawlings, Crestridge Summer Director, gave us an update on camp and the wish list for the coming year. Please refer to our "Projects" article below to read about some items camp desires to integrate into its programs. Hal Hill, Lifeway Camps Director, also shared his camp update with continued praise for Crestridge being 98% full last summer. Also, Hal advised us there will be a new full-time Assistant Director to Marva and a summer intern starting this year.

Discussions continue on making a "camp songs CD" as well as the possibility of a DVD of the closing program to sell to parents/campers. Scholarship funds continue to come in "just at the last moment." A new committee has been formed to come up with more ways to generate scholarship awareness and donations.

The Web site will be getting a facelift over the next several months, and merchandise has been marked down in order to move items so we can purchase new ones for the upcoming summer and 55th Summer Reunion in 2009. Robyn Watson has taken over Web site duties. Many thanks to Katie Waggener Dicks, who set it up and has kept it going.

The meetings are always a time of fun and fellowship, but in addition, we handled a lot of business. Decisions were made and committees established to help us move toward our goal: Looking to God for direction in helping preserve and enhance Camp Crestridge over the coming years.

Special Projects Report

At the Fall Board meeting, projects for the upcoming year were discussed and prioritized. There are so many things that we want to do that it was difficult to decide which projects to focus on first. We try to choose projects that will directly benefit the campers. Donations of time, talent, and treasure for these projects are always welcome.

Chapel pews: The pews need to be refinished as they have not been sanded or varnished since the chapel was built. This will complete our Chapel expansion and renovations that were begun after the 50th Summer Reunion. Completion is expected before camp begins in June.

Blob: A smaller version of the Camp Ridgecrest Blob for our petite Crestridge lake has been located. Campers have requested a Blob for years. We're happy to report that there will be one for this summer.

Exercise Equipment: Mats and exercise balls are needed for the classes held in the pavilion.

Volleyball court: to be located next to the Green. Four-square courts may also be added to this area.

LCD Projector: One is needed for the dining hall. Movies are often shown here as village or rainy-day activities. The Board is looking into purchasing or renting one for camp. A donation of a projector would also be welcome.

THE GRAPEVINE

by Anja Aloia Cleveland

Barwick sisters update: **Bonnie Barwick Sloan** gave birth to Bianca on March 19th. Bonnie and her husband, Ben, live in Decatur, Ga., where she is a stay-at-home mom. They have two other children, Harrison, 8, and Genevieve, 5. **Amy Barwick Lesesne**, a photographer, has three children, Leigh, 10, Jack, 8, and Caroline, 5. Both Leigh and Jack spent their first summer at camp this year. Amy and Bonnie live in the same subdivision and their parents recently bought a home there as well. Their older sister, Susan, recently moved to Decatur to join the rest of the family. What a joy to have the entire family within walking distance. Speaking of "joy," **Joy Barwick Burke** lives in San Francisco and is general counsel for a large company. She was married in December 2005.

Niki Crook DeLoach gave birth to Olivia Sky,

"Livvy," on July 28th. Livvy joined her 6-year-old brother, Joseph. Niki works in a veterinary clinic.

Wendy (Anissa)

Crowe Griffin lives in Arizona with her two children and is a wife, mommy, nurse, and Sunday School teacher.

Emily Bourne Head

gave birth to Mackenzie on April 4, 2006.

Erin Waggener Hobbs

and her husband Brad are expecting their second child in October.

Sanders sisters

update: **Meisje Sanders Arcuri** and her husband, Scott, have two recent additions to their family. Jackson was adopted on December 12th from China, and Georgia was born on the same day. They finally have a future Crestridger. This makes four for them, as they already had Brendon, 12, and Timothy, 8. **Leifje Sanders Marshall** will be at camp this

summer to deliver her Crestridger and Ridgecrester to camp. Carrie went to Starter Camp last summer and can't wait to get back. Sam decided his little sister had way too much fun for him to be left out, so they are both going to be there for 2B.

Kay Kelly Jenkins has two children: Callie, 11, and Neil, 9. She teaches history and political science at a community college in Madison, Miss., where she also coaches the women's golf team. Her husband is full-time military and has served one tour of duty in Iraq.

We need some more "juice" for our grapevine. Please send your latest updates to calumnae@windstream.net. We hear so many comments how everyone loves reading the Grapevine, so make sure your name is highlighted in the next newsletter.

2007 Scholarship Fund voted "Top Priority"

For each of the last two years, CCAF has set a goal of \$12,000 to finance summer scholarships. And for each of the last two years, we have struggled to raise this amount. Thankfully, we have been able to meet our pledges to camp despite some last-minute nail biting. At our fall meeting, the board voted to make scholarships our absolute priority this year. We believe scholarships are one of the most important things that we provide.

We have been privileged to hear stories of what Crestridge has meant to girls who receive scholarships. Over and over, we hear what a difference camp has made. We are working on bringing some of these stories to you so that you can share the joy of knowing the far-reaching impact of your donations. **For the summer of 2007, we have once again pledged to raise \$12,000 for scholarships.** Thanks to your generosity, we have made a good start, and we hope to receive more than our goal this year. All money designated for scholarships goes directly to camp for tuition.

We ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation to the 2007 scholarship fund. Any amount is appreciated and no amount is too small or too large. If you are reading this newsletter, chances are that Camp Crestridge has had an impact on your life. Perhaps the Crestridge bell, the chapel chimes, Johnnie's voice, Marva's announcements, or singspiration sound like home to you. Perhaps you've never spent a day at Crestridge, but you know someone whose life has been changed because of their two- or four-week experience. Perhaps Crestridge is the first place where you learned of God's love. Take this opportunity to share these things with someone who wouldn't otherwise have the chance, and feel blessed knowing that your contribution will make a difference.

MAINTAIN THE MEMORIES

Mark your calendars for **May 18-20, 2007** to join us for Maintain the Memories weekend. Come by yourself or bring the entire family for this weekend of work, fellowship and fun. We had a productive weekend in 2006 and camp will once again have a full list of jobs for us to tackle.

CCAF provides meals for most of the weekend and inexpensive lodging at the conference center is once again available. We will provide more information nearer the date. Please make your reservations with Karen Stitt at karenstittaiken@yahoo.com or 463 Ben Avenue, Lilburn, Ga. 30047.

Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends

P.O. Box 22038

Lexington, KY 40522-2038

With my feet on the ground and my heart attuned, I shall reach for the stars.